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NOTE.

As the matter contained in the papers contributed may sometimes be of a more or less controversial character, the Council wish it to be understood that they do not necessarily endorse all the statements made by the writers.

FAC-SIM

GRANT OF A MARKET TO BUNTINGFORD, A.D. 1541.

HANGING in the vestry of the recently restored Chapel of Ease in Buntingford, is a document of considerable interest to antiquarians in general and to the inhabitants of Buntingford in particular. This is none other than the original Charter under the seal of King Henry VIII granting to Sir Thomas Audeley, the then Lord of the Manor of Cornbury, and the tenants of the Manor, and the inhabitants of Buntingford, the right to hold a market in the town on every Monday in the year, as well as two fairs, one of which was to be held on the 29th and 30th of June, the days of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the other on the 30th of November, St. Andrew's Day, and the 1st of December. These two fairs, which originally occupied four days, have now dwindled to one fair lasting for one day only, viz. St. Peter's Day, the 29th of June. There is no longer a market held every Monday or on any other day in the week. Even the very tradition is lost, for Friday and not Monday is now considered to be the business or 'market' day in Buntingford. In order to remind the inhabitants of this antiquarian treasure which they possess, I have, at the request of the Honorary Secretary of the Society, had a transcription and a translation of the Charter made, which, with a reduced facsimile reproduction of the deed itself, are here given.

My best thanks are due to Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, who gave me the full benefit of his unrivalled experience in deciphering mediæval manuscripts, and most kindly and courteously transcribed the faded and in some places almost illegible characters of the manuscript, and translated the Latin of the time of King Henry VIII into the English of King Edward VII.

T. T. GREG.

TRANSCRIPTION.

HENRICUS OCTAVUS Dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor et in terra ecclesie Anglicane et hibernie supremum caput. Omnibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint salutem.

Sciatis quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris concessimus et hac presenti Carta nostra confirmavimus et licenciam dedimus ac per presentes damus et concedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est Predilecto et fideli consiliario nostro Thome Audeley prenobilis ordinis nostri Garterij Militi Domino Audeley de Waldeñ ac Cancellario nostro Anglie ac Domino Manerij de Cornebury in Comitatu nostro Hertfordie ac omnibus et singulis subditis nostris tenentibus Manerij predicti Necnon omnibus et singulis Inhabitantibus ville de Buntyngford in comitatu Hertfordie predicto quod predictus Thomas heredes et assignati sui domini Manerii predicti ac tenentes ejusdem Manerii heredes et assignati sui qui tenentes ipsius Manerii extiterint et Inhabitantes dicte ville heredes et successores sui inhabitantes ipsius ville imperpetuum habeant gaudeant et teneant ac habere gaudere et tenere possint et valeant apud predictam villam de Buntyngford in altis stratis ejusdem ville et infra fines et limites ejusdem unum marcatum singulis septimanis per diem lune per annum Et duas ferias sive Nundinas apud predictam villam de Buntyngford singulis annis imperpetuum per quatuor dies duraturas videlicet prima feria sive Nundina in die et in crastino sanctorum Petri et Pauli apostolorum scilicet vicesimo nono et tricesimo die Junij et alia feria sive Nundina in die et in crastino sancti Andree apostoli scilicet tricesimo die Novembris ac primo die Decembris similiter imperpetuum tenendas cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus proficuis et commoditatibus ad hujusmodi marcatum et ferias ac Nundinas pertinentibus Dum tamen marcatum et ferie sive Nundine ille non sint ad nocumentum vicinorum marcatorum et vicinarum feriarum sive Nundinarum. Reddendo inde nobis heredibus te successoribus nostris pro mercato et feriis predictis tresdecim solidos et decem denarios singulis annis per manus vicecomitis Hertfordie qui pro tempore fuerit ad festum Sancti Michaelis archangeli annuatim solvendis Volumus eciam quod marcatum et ferie predicte per duos homines de tenentibus manerii et Inhabitantibus ville predicte per predictum Thomam heredes vel assignatos suos dominos manerii predicti annuatim eligendos et nominandos gubernentur et ipsi duo homines sic electi et nominati omnia proficua et exitus de marcato et feriarum illarum proveniencia recipient et Compotum inde coram sex aliis de tenentibus et Inhabitantibus ville predicte per prefatum Thomam heredes vel assignatos suos dominos Manerij predicti appunctuandis reddent. Ita quod proficua et exitus mercati et feriarum predictarum ultra redditum predictum nobis inde solvendum ad communem

utilitatem ville predicte per discrecionem predicti Thome heredum et assignatorum suorum Dominorum manerij predicti ac majorum partium proborum et honestorum virorum ville predicte et tenentium manerij predicti expendentur tocies quocies opus fuerit. Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris quod predicti Thomas et tenentes manerii predicti ac Inhabitantes ville predicte heredes et assignati sui imperpetuum habeant et teneant in forma predicta marcatum et ferias predictas modo et forma prout predictum est absque impedimento impeticione inquietatione molestatione dampno seu gravamine quocumque nostri heredum successorum Escaetorum Vicecomitum Coronatorum aut aliquorum aliorum Officiarorum seu ministrorum nostrorum quorumcumque Dum tamen marcatum ferie sive Nundine ille non sint ad nocumentum vicinorum marcatorum et vicinarum feriarum sive Nundinarum sicut predictum est. Volumus eciam et per presentes concedimus quod predicti Thomas tenentes et inhabitantes ville predicte habeant et habebunt has litteras nostras patentes sub magno sigillo nostro Anglie debito modo factus et sigillatas absque fine seu feodo magno vel parvo nobis in hanaperio nostro seu alibi ad usum nostrum proinde quoquo modo reddendo solvendo vel faciendo Eo quod expressa mencio de vero valore annuo aut certitudine premissorum aut de aliis donis sive concessionibus per nos vel per aliquem progenitorum nostrorum prefatis Thome tenentibus ac Inhabitantibus manerii et ville predict̄ ante hec tempora factis in presentibus minime facta existit aut aliquo statuto aut Ordinacione provisione sive restrictione inde [in] contrarium factis editis ordinatis sive provisis aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacumque aliquo non obstante.

In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes.

Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium primo die Februarii anno regni nostri tricesimo tercio.

Per ipsum Regem et de datâ predictâ auctoritate Parliamenti.

CUPPER.

TRANSLATION.

Henry the Eighth by the grace of God King of England France and Ireland Defender of the Faith and on earth supreme head of the Church of England and Ireland. To all to whom these present letters may come greeting.

Know that we of our special grace and from our certain knowledge and mere motion have granted and by this present

charter have confirmed and given leave and by these presents do give and grant for us and our heirs as far as it is in us to our beloved and faithful counsellor Thomas Audeley Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter Lord Audeley of Walden and our Chancellor of England and lord of the manor of Cornbury in our county of Hertford and to all and singular our subjects the tenants of the aforesaid manor as well as to all and singular the inhabitants of the town of Buntingford in the county of Hertford aforesaid that the aforesaid Thomas his heirs and assigns lords of the manor aforesaid and the tenants of the same manor their heirs and assigns who shall be tenants of the same manor and their successors the inhabitants of the same town for ever that they may have enjoy and hold and can and may have enjoy and hold at the aforesaid town of Buntingford in the highways of the same town and within the bounds and limits of the same a market every week on Monday throughout the year and two fairs or marts at the aforesaid town of Buntingford every year for ever for a length of four days namely the first fair or mart on the day and morrow of Saints Peter and Paul that is on the 29th and 30th days of June and the other fair or mart on the day and morrow of St. Andrew the apostle that is on the 30th day of November and the first day of December likewise for ever to be held with all liberties and free customs profits and commodities pertaining to markets and fairs and marts of this kind. Provided that the market and those fairs or marts be not to the hurt of neighbouring markets and of neighbouring fairs or marts.

Rendering thence to us our heirs and successors for the market and fairs aforesaid thirteen shillings and tenpence each year by the hands of the sheriff of Hertford for the time being to be paid yearly at the feast of St. Michael the archangel.

We will also that the market and fairs aforesaid be governed by two men of the tenants of the manor and inhabitants of the town aforesaid to be annually chosen and nominated by the aforesaid Thomas his heirs or assigns lords of the manor aforesaid and these two men so chosen and nominated shall receive all the profits and issues proceeding from the market and fairs and render account therefor before six other of the tenants and inhabitants of the town aforesaid to be appointed by the aforesaid Thomas his heirs or assigns lords of the aforesaid manor. So that the profits and issues of the aforesaid market and fairs beyond the aforesaid rent to be paid therefrom to us shall be expended for the common use of the town aforesaid at the discretion of the aforesaid Thomas his heirs and assigns lords of the manor aforesaid and of the greater part of

the upright and honest men of the aforesaid town and tenants of the manor aforesaid so often as these shall be used.

Wherefore we will and firmly ordain for us our heirs and successors that the aforesaid Thomas and the tenants of the aforesaid manor and the inhabitants of the same town their heirs and assigns for ever may have and hold in form aforesaid the market and fairs aforesaid in manner and form as is aforesaid without impediment impeachment disturbance molestation damage or grievance whatsoever of us our heirs successors escheators sheriffs coroners or any other of our servants or officers whatsoever. So long as the market and fairs be not to the hurt of the neighbouring markets and of the neighbouring fairs or marts as is aforesaid.

We will also and by these presents grant that the aforesaid Thomas tenants and inhabitants of the town aforesaid may have and shall have these our letters patent under our great seal of England in due form done and sealed without rendering paying or making any fine or fee great or small to us in our hanaper or elsewhere to our use in any way whatever. Notwithstanding express mention of the true annual value or certainty of the premises or of other gifts or grants made by us or by any of our ancestors to the aforesaid Thomas or the tenants and inhabitants of the manor and town aforesaid is not made in these presents, and any statute ordinance provision or restriction to the contrary made enacted ordained or provided and any other thing cause or matter whatsoever notwithstanding.

In witness whereof we have caused to be issued these letters patent.

Attested by me at Westminster on the 1st day of February in the thirty-third year of our reign.

By the King himself and from the date aforesaid with the authority of Parliament.

CUPPER.[1]

[1] The name of the scribe or clerk.

OPENING OF A BARROW AT BROXBORNEBURY, 1901.

(*The following is a Paper read November 28th*, 1901, *by Sir John Evans, K.C.B., before the Society of Antiquaries, and, by permission, reprinted from the Transactions of that Society.*—ED.)

I HAVE to report on the opening of another barrow in Hertfordshire, about 4 miles south and by west of that at Easneye, on which I reported in the year 1899.[1]

It lies on the property of Horace J. Smith-Bosanquet, Esq., of Broxbornebury, who undertook the exploration, and who kindly invited me to come and stay with him so as to superintend the work. The barrow is situated in a small wood or plantation adjoining Broxbornebury Park, and immediately opposite the farm buildings of Hoddesdon Bury, from which it is separated by a lane running east and west, known as Cock Lane. The Roman road, the Ermine Street, running nearly north and south, is distant a little more than half a mile to the west.

The barrow itself is about 70 feet in diameter, and is surrounded by a ditch, the level of which is about 6 feet below that of the neighbouring land. The height of the central part of the tumulus is about 9 feet above that of the ditch which surrounds it. At the northern side the mound seems at some time to have had soil removed from it, and the same appears to have been the case with the outer side of the ditch. As a consequence there was some difficulty in ascertaining what was the exact centre of the mound. Not improbably the removal of the soil was connected with the formation of the road already mentioned as Cock Lane. A considerable number of trees grew upon the mound, but none of great age, and what seemed to be the centre was fairly free.

The examination of the tumulus was conducted in the following manner. A trench with vertical sides was carried in from south to north, its bottom being approximately on a level with the bottom of the surrounding ditch, and its width about 5 feet. It was soon evident that the lower part of the trench was carried through

[1] Proc. Soc. Ant., xviii, 8.

virgin soil to a depth of about 3 feet, but this was deliberately carried on with the view that if there were any grave or original excavation in the ground it should be exposed in the trench. Nothing of the kind was, however, laid bare. This virgin soil was a fairly heavy grey clay of glacial origin, having in it a considerable number of blocks of flint and some quartz and quartzite pebbles. In the upper part of the clay and near the centre of the mound a flat block of black lava from 7 to 8½ inches in length, from 3½ to 4½ inches in breadth, and from 1 to 1½ inches in thickness, was found. At first sight this had the appearance of being part of a quern formed of Andernach lava, but in order to settle the question of its date and origin a part of it was submitted to Mr. F. W. Rudler, of the Museum of Practical Geology, who reports upon it as follows:—"It seemed to me on merely examining your Hoddesdon specimen with the naked eye that you were correct in identifying it with the millstone lava of Niedermendig, near Andernach. But to fortify my opinion I submitted the rock to Mr. Teall, who has had a microscopic section cut, and also a section cut from the Rhenish millstone lava in our Museum. He tells me that his examination shows that they are practically identical. Moreover, with his wide knowledge of British petrography, he does not know any similar rock in this country. It seems, therefore, that you will be quite safe in referring the Hoddesdon specimen to a Rhenish origin; and I suppose such a material is not likely to have been imported in pre-Roman times."

The importance of the discovery of this portion of a millstone formed of Niedermendig lava will become apparent when the date of the barrow has to be discussed.

The trench was carried on at the low level until it had passed the centre of the barrow, and was then continued at the level of the original surface of the soil until it attained the length of 40 feet. At the approximate centre of the mound trenches about 6 feet in width were cut east and west to a distance of about 4 feet, but without revealing anything in the nature of a deposit.

The material of which the mound consisted is a loam more yellow in colour and more sandy in character than the virgin soil at the bottom of the trench. It seems, however, to have been mainly derived from digging the ditch surrounding the tumulus, and it is a characteristic of the glacial deposits of the district that they vary in character within very limited distances.

The remarkable feature of the barrow was this, that when the trench had been cut to a distance of about 25 feet from the margin

a layer of ashes and charcoal was encountered, extending across the whole trench. Excavation was carefully made, but little more than charred vegetable remains were found, though eventually the sides of the vertical trench exposed a section of a wide saucer-like depression in the original soil about 15 feet to 15 feet 6 inches in diameter, with a depth of 1 foot 6 inches in the centre, on either side of which a depth of 1 foot 10 inches had been reached, showing that the bottom of the saucer had had a rounded elevation in the middle rising 4 inches above its lowest parts. The whole surface was well marked by charcoal and ashes. Some fragments which have been examined by Mr. V. H. Blackman, of the Botanical Department of the British Museum, appear to be undoubtedly of oak.

There was also a fragment of what seemed to be charred bone.

The general result of the examination seems to show that before the mound was thrown up a saucer-like depression was made in the surface of the ground, in which a large fire was kindled, in all probability a funeral pyre, and that subsequently, without disturbing the ashes, earth was heaped upon the spot to form a monumental mound. If it were a funeral pyre the ashes of the deceased have either been buried in some other part of the mound than that which has been examined, or have been dissolved and carried away by natural agencies, or possibly have been removed for interment elsewhere.

From a section made through the ditch it appeared that it had originally a flat bottom about 6 feet in width. The method of deriving the soil for the formation of a burial mound, or a great part of it, from sinking a ditch around it, is so simple and saves so much labour that it can hardly be regarded as indicative of any particular period.

In the Broxbornebury barrow no flint or bronze implements were found, nor indeed, with three exceptions, anything suggestive of the handiwork of man beyond the coating of ashes in the saucer-like depression.

Of these exceptions two are fragments of what is apparently Roman pottery found near the margin of the tumulus before my arrival on the spot. Both are of grey ware, one a portion of the mouth of an urn formed on the potter's wheel, and the other a fragment of the body of an urn. I am assured that they were lying about two feet within the body of the mound, and if this be true they afford good grounds for regarding the barrow as being either of Roman or post-Roman date. The absence of any deposit in the centre of the mound is against it being Roman, and in form

it differs from the Roman barrows of the district, such as that at Youngsbury,[1] opened in 1889.

But the third exception is conclusive. It is the fragment of a small quern or hand millstone, formed of the lava from Niedermendig, near Andernach, on the Rhine, a material in constant use by the Romans for their querns, and perhaps even more widely in use for this purpose than the Hertfordshire lower tertiary conglomerate or pudding-stone. This fragment cannot, I think, be accepted as being of earlier than Roman date, and as it lay beneath the charred lining of the saucer-shaped depression, and as the characteristics of the barrow are not such as to indicate a Roman date, we are driven to the conclusion that the barrow must be regarded as belonging to post-Roman times.

Such being the case, we must now consider whether there is any ancient foundation for what has now grown into a kind of popular tradition, that the name of Hoddesdon, the hamlet or market town in which this barrow is situated, derives its name from the tumulus, which was the burial-place of a certain Danish chief named Oddo.

Chauncy, the earliest to write a detailed history of Hertfordshire, for we may leave Camden, Norden, and Cox on one side so far as this question is concerned, writing in the year 1700, speaks of 'Hodesdon' as follows:[2] "A fair Hamlet, shews itself upon a small hill, which gives the name to it, situated about two miles distant from St. Margaret's towards the west, in the Parishes of Amwell and Brokesborne."

Salmon, in his history of Hertfordshire, 1728, is far more diffuse:[3] "It might be named from *Oddo* or *Otto*, some Danish commander, whose *Tumulus* was here. This was a Name of great Repute amongst that People, as appears from the writings of *Saxo Grammaticus*. It might be from *Woods-Down*, the rising Ground lying near the great Woods belonging to this Manor; as *Woodcot* we often find for a house near a Wood. Or from Wodens-Done, where the *Saxons* had a place of worship. For the Word will not undergo more Change this Way than it does in Wiltshire, where *Wansdish* the Border of Mercia is allowed to come from *Wodens-Ditch*. These Guesses every Reader is desired to accept, reject, or improve as he finds Reason."

These remarks of Salmon seem to be an expansion of Chauncy's "small hill," and the first of his etymological vagaries is evidently

[1] *Archæologia*, lii, p. 286.
[2] p. 286.
[3] p. 21.

baseless and not founded upon any local tradition, or he would not have sought for Oddo in Saxo Grammaticus instead of in the "Saxon Chronicle." Nevertheless, his speculation as to the name of the place being derived from that of the barrow, and as to this latter being derived from the name of a Danish chief, has taken root and almost become a popular tradition. In Lewis's Topographical Dictionary (1835) we find under Hoddesdon: "The name of this place is supposed to have been derived from its having been the residence of Hodo or Oddo, a Danish chief, or from a tumulus or barrow raised here to his memory."

Apart from all these speculations we must bear in mind that some few years before the Lady of Mercia, Aethelflaed, and King Edward the Elder constructed the northern and southern burhs at Hertford, the whole of the district bordering on the Lea was in the power of the Danes, who probably used that river as their highway. The Lea at Hoddesdon is but little over a mile distant from the barrow, and assuming that the fragments of Roman pottery and the Andernach millstone prove this to be post-Roman in date, we may after all, though discarding Oddo, have here a tumulus thrown up during the Danish occupation. It is at all events within the bounds of possibility; and if we give full play to our imagination, we may go so far as to assume that the barrow was the site of the cremation of some Danish chief, and not his burial-place, his ashes having been collected and carried away by his adherents for honourable interment in his native land.

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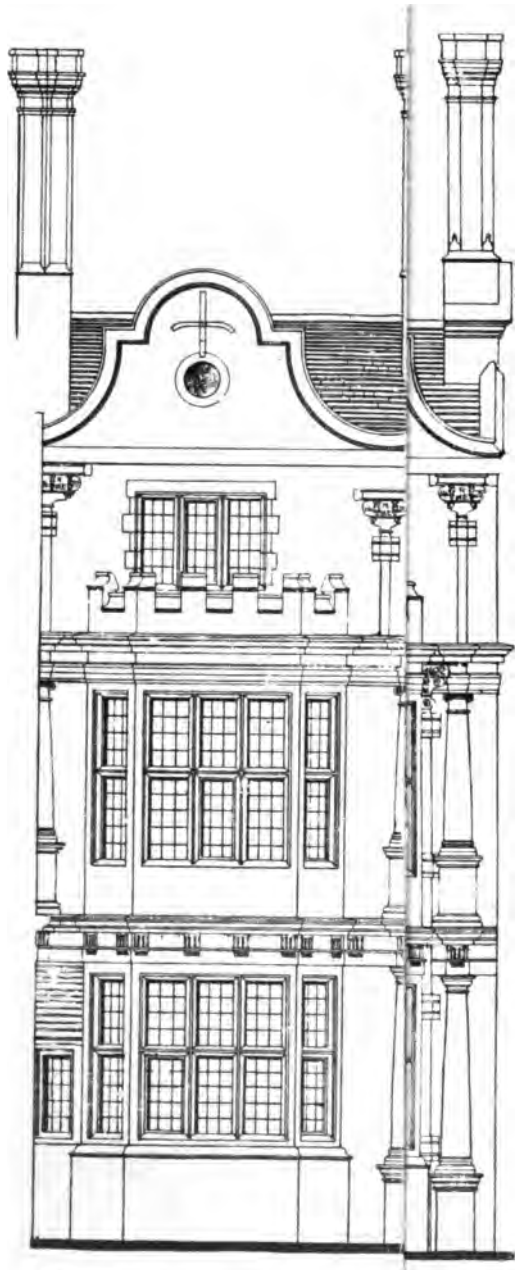


RAWDON HOUSE, HODDESDON.

(*Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Society*, 1902.)

THE house itself stands facing the high road from London to the North of England, on the east side, therefore its street front is to the west. It was in the year 1622 that Marmaduke Rawdon, the third son of Ralph Rawdon of Stearsby, in the county of York, commenced building it, and a brick panel on this front gives the date. It was erected on the site of another house belonging to his father. Hatfield House had been built in 1611, and, the style of its architecture being much admired, was freely copied, and possibly may have been in this case; but I will refer for a moment to the changes that had come over the architectural world and had brought about this style of building, of which Mr. Gotch says in his valuable work on "Early Renaissance":—"The progress of Mediæval architecture was regular in its continuity from the years 1100 to 1500, and may be divided into four great periods, Norman, Early English, Decorated, and Perpendicular, with transition so unbroken that it is easy to distinguish; but in the beginning of the sixteenth century Italy shed its influence with so much force that in about two centuries its native characteristics had well-nigh disappeared.

"England was the home of Gothic architecture, Italy of Classic, and so as Italian style spread there was a marvellous mingling of things new and old, wonderful suggestions in the past, and great openings for experience in the present.

"The new ideas at length reached England, but modified by the peculiarities of the lands over which they passed in reaching us, and our version is coloured by those of Holland and Germany, the route by which they came.

"It is in Elizabethan mansions that we find the two combined, as the English buildings had of necessity to be designed on lines quite different to the Italian, in order to meet our local requirements and the difference of climate. It was difficult to harmonize the freedom of Gothic and the definite lines of Classic, but though too often imperfect in detail and proportion a striking individuality was evolved, and much genius exercised in both execution and

material, sufficient to raise the designs of this period to the dignity of a new style, which as it passed on from Elizabethan to Jacobean became more true to its classical origin, yet perhaps lost some of its vitality in so doing."

It was at this period that Rawdon House was erected. The building is of red brick and massive in appearance, but the alterations that were made in the year 1879 proved that some of its walls were not of quite so stable a character as might have been supposed; indeed, a well-known authority declared some of it to be almost flimsy in construction. The brick walling was at some later date covered with plaster (probably much of it in the year 1842) by the late Mr. James Pulham, of Broxbourne; but when it came into the hands of Mr. Ricardo in the year 1879 he commenced to restore it to its original character. The plastering was stripped from the walls of the west front, and the brickwork cleaned and repointed, a work of much labour and cost, but which more than repaid the trouble taken in doing it. As you will see by the original drawing of the front, kindly lent to me by Mr. Ernest George, the well-known architect, it consisted of four gables, with a square projecting porch carried up two stories with balustrading above, and then receding to the main front with a pediment in the centre. In this is the main entrance door to the house. The grey granite columns on each side and the moulded springers of the arch were, at the time of the restoration, covered with thick colouring and thought to be of plaster. The four heavy mullioned bays, which are so prominent, give a very distinctive character to this front. The gauged brickwork which now forms the balustrading to the porch and also the chimneys was substituted by Mr. Ernest George in 1879 for somewhat similar work in cement, but probably, as before mentioned, much of this cement work was of later date, when the practice of covering old brickwork with plaster was so much in vogue. Neither the south or the north ends have any architectural features to record, the original house having probably been an oblong block; but the east or garden front has a very massive and interesting square tower, which contains the very richly carved oak staircase, one of the principal features of the house, and to which we will allude later on. On the ground floor this tower forms the garden entrance, and has a very fine old semi-circular headed door consisting of nine panels, with the circle elaborately fluted, a splendid example of the period. The tower is carried up above the roof, terminating with balustrading, enclosing a gallery with cupola and sidelights of glass. From

the gallery a very beautiful and comprehensive view can be obtained of the surrounding country, extending for many miles. The roof is formed by many small spans covered with tiles, and intersected by numerous small lead gutters. The ancient lead rainwater heads bearing date 1622, with the Rawdon initials, are very interesting, and show how much attention was paid to the study of beaten leadwork at this period, and from these ancient models others were made at the time of the restoration by Mr. Ricardo in 1879. The revival of this industry has been very marked during the last few years, and it is distinctly one of the many things for which we have to thank our forefathers in giving us such beautiful examples.

The garden on the east side is all that an old garden should be, an old terrace wall supporting the upper garden, and below it a broad border full of rare flowers, the result of many years' collection; well-kept yew hedges of great height, with long straight paths between; many beautiful old trees, a mulberry of exceptional growth, and the never-forgotten fountain. Added to this is a lovely outlook across the river to the Essex hills beyond, rendering it a delightful spot for quiet residence; in fact, were it not for its proximity to the high road it would be as perfect a place as it is possible to find.

We must now pay a visit to the interior of the house. On entering by the west door facing the high road, we find ourselves in a spacious hall with a staircase in the rear; this is paved with squares of black and white marble. On the left is a small room, formerly used as a boudoir, most beautifully panelled in oak and very expressive of the period, as up to the seventeenth century panelling was usually constructed in a more massive manner, with timber perhaps 4 inches by 3 inches in section, uprights from 18 inches to 2 feet apart, and horizontal rails according to height of rooms. The spaces thus formed were filled in with one piece of board. After this period followed the lighter form of superficial panelling, as now adopted, but at first with the mouldings (worked in solid) running out before the junction of the horizontal and vertical framing was reached, and also with mouldings worked on the vertical framing—only leaving the horizontal framing square—and finally with the mouldings worked all round, but stopped in at the mitres similar to masonry, a process now adopted with much of our best work. It is difficult to trace when the 'applied' or 'inserted' moulding came in, but it was certainly not in general use at the time of Elizabeth or James. The chimney-piece and 'dog grate' also formed an important feature, as it usually did in

work of this period, and was carefully worked in with the pilasters and frieze, which formed part of the panelling. On the right of the hall is the dining-room, but much of the panelling, though made to match, is of modern workmanship. The grand old oak staircase, with its richly carved baluster and newels, is of considerable width, and ascends to the second floor of the house without interruption. Many of the figures are of a grotesque kind, and the walls are panelled to the height of the rail; but although this has often been regarded as oak, much of it is in plaster, and was modelled by the late Mr. James Pulham, of Broxbourne, during the years 1842–3. It is particularly noticeable about staircases of this period, from the fact of their ascending to the inferior rooms above, that they were made for show as well as for use; and as the guest-chamber was on the first floor, the upper flights would be in full view of those who used this and the long gallery (which also belongs to this period and exists in Rawdon House, at the top of the first flight of stairs).

The bedrooms are many, though comparatively small, but the large bays of the west front give space as well as dignity to them. A very beautiful drawing-room was formed by Mr. Ricardo, by converting two or three smaller rooms into one. A modern enriched ceiling was also added here, from the designs of Mr. Ernest George, in strict keeping with the character of the house, and it is said that of all the work of the time of Elizabeth and James, the peculiarly English feeling was to be traced in the ceilings, the idea of which was to cover the flat space with shallow ribs, forming a more or less regular pattern. This was well repeated in this instance, and still exists. The kitchen and offices are of modern date, and no trace remains of those that originally existed. In the year 1880 Mr. Ricardo built a new wing from the designs of Messrs. Ernest George & Peto, at right angles with the west front, and extending up to the boundary of High Road. It caused some criticism at the time, but gives both a picturesque and substantial character to the building, and is in strict accordance with the best work of the Jacobean period. Modern offices of an unsatisfactory appearance, from an architectural point of view, had been erected at an earlier date.

This brings us to the year 1897, when the building passed into the hands of its present owners, the Canonesses of the Order of St. Augustine, who purchased it from the late Mr. C. P. Christie; and soon after their arrival the house was closed by the Cardinal Archbishop, and visitors are no longer allowed to view it. They have built a chapel of galvanized iron on the north side,

which is not in keeping with the building, and sadly mars its picturesqueness.

This paper should deal principally with the architectural features of the old house, but in writing of these one cannot but think that if its walls could speak, what variable stories they could tell.

It was here, we are told, in the month of June, 1631, Mr. Rawdon brought his nephew Marmaduke, who had just returned from the island of Teneriffe, where he had managed his uncle's agency for wine with great success, and in the language of the time the meeting was thus described:—"There was nothing treated of but mirth and feastynge, and Sir Marmaduke, for the joy of the arrival of his two sons and nephew, made at his house at Hoddesdon a great feaste, to which was invited the Earl of Salisbury (the second Earl) and his Countesse, the Lord Cranbourne (his son), with the rest of his sons and daughters, the Lord Norris, and several other persons of honour, where there was all the varieties that England could afford of viands, and several sorts of wines, and cost as I am informed £140."

I dare not enter on the long list of subsequent owners, as it descended from father to son, or other members of the family (a member of this Society, Mr. Whitley, is in possession of much valuable and interesting information with reference to this), but would pass on to a period within the recollection of many of the inhabitants, when it was in the possession of the late Mr. John Warner, and the famous Mrs. Ellis carried on a ladies' school with great success within its walls. Afterwards it was occupied as a private residence by Mr. Balme, Mr. Oxenham, and Mr. Ricardo, and subsequently sold to Mr. Charles Peter Christie, who, after cutting off some small portion of the land contiguous to his property, sold it to its present owners. Now, where we have heard of feasts and merriment, silence reigns, and the outer world is only aware of its being occupied by the convent bell which tells of the hour of prayer, and of the existence of a band of devoted ladies who give up their lives to meditation and prayer. Thus far we know who do not belong to their community, but many of us have had experience of their kindly sympathy in trouble, which indicates that, although they have chosen to live apart, their hearts beat in unison with our own, and certainly no fitter place could have been chosen than this beautiful old house for what it has now become, a conventual retreat.

It is said that much of the old panelling has been removed from the walls. Naturally, from our standpoint, this seems a sad act of vandalism, and one hesitates to intrude on the reasons which

induced its owners to take such a step; when one thinks of what was done by the Roman Catholics to preserve the ancient relics of Rome, and by so doing earning the gratitude of the whole world, we can only feel that they had some cogent reasons for removing that which was so essentially a part of the ancient edifice, and lent such great attraction to it. Happily the staircase is still there, and it is earnestly hoped they will never be induced to remove so noble a relic, as such a step would endanger the character of the old house.

In connection with Rawdon House, there is a fine spring of beautiful pure water, brought in a leaden pipe from the hill-side near High Leigh, and from which a supply was given to the inhabitants by deed dated 1725. Mr. Robert Davies, F.S.A., in his book on Marmaduke Rawdon, nephew of Sir Marmaduke, alludes to this water supply in these words:—"Sir Marmaduke did att his owne proper cost and charges, much beawtifie it with a conduit of water, which in the shape of the Samaritan woman (of free stone), with a pitcher in her hand, doth fill water to the service of the whole towne." The quantity is stipulated at one gallon per minute, but either the spring has failed of late or some block has taken place in the pipes (the latter is the more probable cause), and at the present time it is a matter of investigation by the local authority, which is responsible to the inhabitants, that the terms of the gift so much valued by them should be fulfilled.

For a few minutes only would I refer to the first owner, Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, who appears to have taken a very deep interest in the affairs of Hoddesdon, which, when he came to it, was but a small hamlet with a few houses scattered about, badly made roads, few carriages, or probably only pack-horses, a long ill-shaped pond opposite Cock Lane, an open brook, called Spital Brook, to wade through at the south end of the town, and another called Woollens Brook at the north end. Cottages stood in the middle of the street, where was also the old chapel of St. Catherine's, and the whole town was built on a fringe of common land, and had a population of probably not more than 500 persons.

William, second Earl of Salisbury, having granted a charter for a market, built a quaint old market house, a building of two stories, in oak, and Sir Marmaduke Rawdon left £40 to assist its completion. In this and many other ways there appears little doubt that he was a great benefactor to the town, and that a large share of its progress and development was due to him.

Before closing this paper I desire to express my gratitude to

the family of the late Mr. Alexander McKenzie, one of Hoddesdon's most devoted lovers, and from whose valuable data I have gained much information; also to Mr. James Pulham, of Broxbourne, for confirmatory information as to some of the later work; to Mr. Douglas Taylor, for the loan of Mr. Davies' book; to Mr. Ernest George, the architect, for the loan of valuable drawings of the old west front; and also my indebtedness to Mr. Gotch's valuable book "Early Renaissance," for much general information.

JOHN ALFRED HUNT.

[The lower lights of the bays in the illustration to this article should be four squares high, and not five as shown.—ED.]

THE

RUINED CHURCH OF CHISFIELD, STEVENAGE.

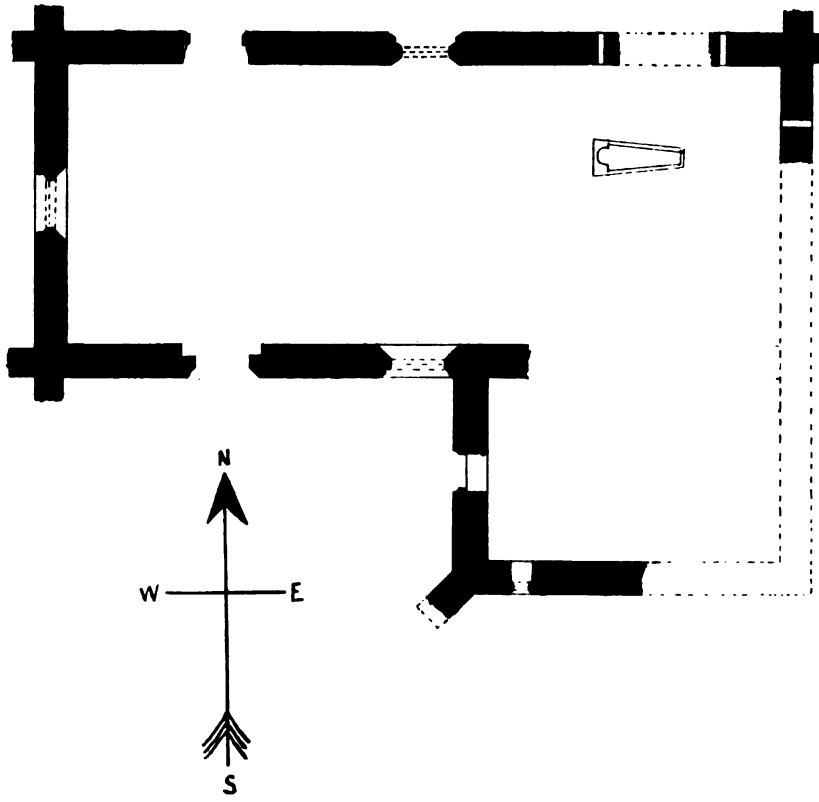
(*Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Society*, 1902.)

The parish of Chisfield is situate about two miles from Stevenage and one mile from Graveley, and formerly possessed a church of its own, of which nothing is left but a few walls overgrown with ivy.

Starting from Stevenage, I crossed the yard and playground of the National Schools, and then followed a footpath, long, straight, narrow, and tedious, delightfully rural and pleasant on a fine day, leaving the old Parish Church of St. Nicholas, which, with its square tower and tall spire, is a landmark for many miles round, on the right hand. The footpath passes through ploughed fields, on either side of which the corn is springing up, and an old oak-tree appears as a landmark of an interesting nature. This tree is known by the name of "The Round Oak," and probably has a history attached to it. It stands in a large field called "Round Oak Common," and is pollard, hollow, and nearly dead, measuring about 54 inches in diameter. Its branches spread a long way around, and it appears to be 300 or 400 years old. On the right are seen the grounds of Chisfield Manor House, the mansion being hidden by the trees. A description of it and views appeared in a publication called the "County Seats of England" about fifty years ago.

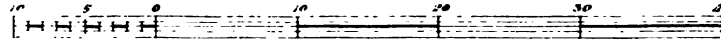
About half a mile further on is a farmhouse with outbuildings, and a plantation containing some enormous elm and other trees, and adjoining the farm is the churchyard containing the ruined walls of the old church of Chisfield. The churchyard is about an acre in extent, and is nothing more than a grass field. Not a vestige is to be seen of any grave or memorial of the dead. Some time ago a drain was cut through it from the farmyard, and a few bones were disturbed. It contains one large elm-tree and a few smaller ones. There is a lane along one side, and a pond in the adjoining field.

Dr. Syntax on his tour in search of the picturesque would have found this spot a happy hunting-ground for himself and his old



Church of St Edmund

Chisfield Herts



Scale of Feet

grizzle mare, of which he was so fond, and would have commented upon the spot accordingly. In Doomsday Book the place was called Escelveia, and then Scelva and Scelve in the reign of King Edward I; afterwards Chevesfield in the time of Edward II, Chivesfield in 1492, and Chisfield in 1515, and Chevisfield in the reign of Henry VIII. Chauncy states: "In the reign of Henry III this manor and that of Graveley were possessed by William de Chives, who erected a seat upon this hill and called it by his own name." Clutterbuck says, "The present name of this place, Chisfield, seems to be but a slight contraction of Chells Field or Chills Field, Chells being the name of a small adjoining Lordship."

The church was evidently originally a small building, and was probably built for the use of occupants of the manor house in the adjoining park. It appears to stand east and west, and to have consisted of a nave and chancel, about 50 feet long and 25 feet wide, with a side chapel at the east end and on the south side, about 20 feet by 17 feet. The building at the present time comprises the wall at the west end with gable, the whole of the north and part of the south walls, which are about 12 feet high, and a portion of the west wall of the chapel. The wall at the east end of the church and those at the south side and east end of the chapel have disappeared. The walls that remain are about 2 feet 6 inches in thickness, are built of flints, and have been plastered inside and outside, whilst the whole is overgrown with ivy, giving a very picturesque and wild effect. The stems of ivy are large, one of them measuring 12 inches through near the ground, and trees are growing both inside and outside of the building. Portions of the buttresses remain at the corners of the west wall, and are built of flint placed on stone slabs, with a few pieces of stone occasionally inserted. Since the church was demolished in 1750, the ravages of time have nearly completed its destruction, and there is not a particle of wood to be seen. The portion of the south wall shows a large crack, the north wall is slanting inwards, and will probably soon fall down. In the north wall is a doorway, not far from the west end of the church, and there are two window openings, a corresponding doorway and one window on the south side. At the west end there is a window, about 8 feet high and 4 feet wide, with the stonework and tracery nearly perfect.

There is a doorway from the churchyard into the chapel on the west side and a small lancet window on the south side. There are no monuments within the building, and the remains of the walls

show no decorations, no architectural features are to be seen, and the floor is wholly covered with earth and weeds. Perhaps, if an enthusiastic antiquarian could be prevailed upon to clear out the building, his industry would be rewarded by the finding of remains of the stonework and inscriptions.

The only feature of interest at the present time inside the church is that of a stone coffin in a perfect state, full of earth and stones, without a lid, lying imbedded in the ground in what was probably the chancel, exposed to the sight and feet of tourists and to the wind and weather at all times.

This coffin is not mentioned by Chauncy, who, writing in 1700, tells us that "On Chives Hill stands an ancient small church or chappel with a chancel adjoyning the same, both which are covered with tyles, there is a small chappel adjoyning to the Lord of Chivesfield. In the chancel there is not anything remarkable, for the windows were defaced in the late time of rebellion, Anno 1642, but in the north window there are the figures of some bishops, one supposed to be St. Edmond in his habit with a crosier in his Hand, another is thought to be St. Thomas of Canterbury in his Archi-episcopal Habit with his Crosier in his Hand, and at the East End thereof are the figures of several other Bishops and Holy Men, now defaced.

"In the Passage or Arch between the chancel or chapel is a tomb raised about two feet high, wherein some suppose that the Founder of the church may lie; and in the chapel did lye the Body of Sir Francis Throckmorton of Great Coughton in the County of Warwick, Bar, who dyed the —— day of November, 1680, which chapel is adorned with his Banner and Banrol and other Ensigns belonging to his Degree, but his eldest son lately removed his body to his Ancestors at Coughton.

"In the upper window in the north side of the church more Pictures are defaced, whereof appears a Bishop in his Habit, with a Crosier Staff. Near it is a Coat of Arms Gules, three cover cups Argent.

"In the west window is a Coat of Arms Azure, seven Fleurs de Lys or."

Chauncy also gives a list of the rectors of Chisfield Church from 1300 to 1439. The living was united to that of Graveley in 1445, and the last rector of Chisfield was presented to the living of Graveley in that year.

The family of Throckmorton owned the Manor of Chisfield, and lived at the Manor House for some years.

Chauncy also states that the boundaries of the ecclesiastical

districts of both Graveley and Chisfield were so uncertain that contentions arose between the rectors of each place, and resulted in one parson being killed by the other on the occasion of their meeting during their perambulations. But this may be only village gossip.

Salmon, who wrote his History of Hertfordshire in 1728, gives a very similar account to that of Chauncy of Chisfield Church in reference to the figures in the windows and the coats-of-arms, and says that the chapel was the burying-place of the Lords of the Manor, and was divided from the chancel by an arch.

In the chapel was an inscription to John Hurst, of Baldock, who married Dorothy, daughter of George Throckmorton, Esq., and died in 1700, aged 82.

Salmon also states that "An old stone in the chancel hath on the verge—

'Thomas de Blommule gist icy.
Dieu de sa alme eit merci.'

This person is very probably of the family of Blommull or Blomville one of the Founders of the Priory of White Carmelites at Hitchin sometimes called the Brotherhood House."

It is probable that this stone may have been the cover of the coffin now to be seen in the floor of the chancel.

Salmon also mentions the church clerk as being a harmless old man who stood by whilst he was copying the inscriptions on the stones, which seems to denote that services were held in the church at that time.

Clutterbuck, another Hertfordshire historian, writing in 1821 says:—"This church having been very ruinous, licence was granted on the 8th of October, 1750, by the then Bishop of Lincoln to the rector, churchwardens, overseers and other inhabitants of the united parishes of Graveley-cum-Chisfield to demolish the same and to apply the materials towards the reparation of the church of Graveley, upon condition of the inhabitants of Chisfield becoming constant contributors to the repairs of the church of Graveley as often as need should require.

"What remains of the church now is a miserable heap of ruins; the roof is gone, the walls are broken, not one of the windows is entire, the arms and inscriptions are lost, and the churchyard is thrown open."

Clutterbuck also states that the only inscription remaining in the church in his time was to the memory of the Rev. William Goodwin, who was vicar of Ickleford and Pirton for nearly fifty years and died in 1731, aged 81.

There appears to be no doubt that the demolition licensed by the Bishop was effectually carried out, and the church of Graveley must have benefited accordingly.

Cussans, our latest Hertfordshire historian, who compiled his history in 1874, states that "the old parish church of Chisfield stands about three-quarters of a mile east of Graveley. It is now a complete ruin, and a luxuriant growth of nettles entirely covers the greater part of the site. It was demolished in 1750, by virtue of a licence issued by the Bishop of Lincoln, and the materials have been used from time to time in repairing the church of Graveley."

He also says that the church was used for divine service as late as the year 1728, although the two parishes had long before then been united. He refers to the old stone coffin in the floor as having a lid with the lower part broken.

Cussans also gives an account of the furniture and ornaments in the church after the Reformation :—"The Commissioners only found in the parish church of Chesefield a chalysse of silv., a vestyment of blewe chamlett, another vestyment of white fuschien, an olde cope of stayned clothe, and two bellys in the steple."

When the church was in use, according to the description given by Chauncy and Salmon, it must have presented an attractive appearance internally. It does not appear to be known to what saint this old building was dedicated; but as Chauncy mentions St. Edmund and St. Thomas of Canterbury, it is possible that one of these was its patron saint.

The building seems to have had a clerestory, as Chauncy mentions an upper window on the north side, and there may have been a tower with steeple in which were the bells found by the Commissioners in 1552; but Chauncy says "that two bells hang in the roof of the *west* end of the church; whereof one is broke."

And now we must leave the interesting ruins of this old church, around which the "rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" in their final resting-places in God's acre, with the hope that these crumbling walls will be allowed to remain, to hand down to future generations dim memories of past centuries, long-forgotten years, and bygone days.

W. F. Andrews.

STANSTEAD ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.

East Window and South Doorway.

STANSTEAD ST. MARGARETS CHURCH.

The building as it now stands consists of a chancel and nave of equal width, and it is said to be but one aisle of a much larger structure which was a collegiate priory, probably dating from the latter part of the fourteenth century. It will be observed that the large bays have been filled up, and Gothic windows inserted. The marks of the opening of the bays can be seen from both inside and outside. The existing walls are no doubt part of the original structure. The rough-hewn king-post beams are also part of the old building. The Gothic or Decorative style of the east window has often been very much admired for its tracery, but the coloured glass is not worthy of being fixed in such a window. It was put in some sixty years ago by the village glazier. The stone brackets and niches on each side are also probably of the earliest date. There are several memorial stones on the floor of the church, under which many families have been buried, viz., Filius Filii Johannis de Goldington, 1419; Cressetts, 1663; Martha, second wife of Earl of Barrymoor, 1657; Thomas Westrow, formerly Rector of this parish, and Anne his wife, a daughter of Sir Henry Capel, 1675. Sir William de Goldington was lord of the manor and patron of this church in the reign of Edward II. At that time many of the wealthy inhabitants withdrew from the parish, and, finding the church impoverished and not fit for the maintenance of a rector, he founded a College here, having obtained a license from the King, dated at Lincoln in 1315. He endowed it with land and £6 yearly rent in Thele and Amwell. Inasmuch as St. Margarets could not then maintain a vicar, he appointed the Custos of the College to serve the cure in 1321. From neglect and bad management of the revenues of this College the Bishop of London, in 1431, dissolved the College, and appropriated the revenues to the Priory of Elsing Spittle, in London, the reason given for this being that the Regulars or Brethren of Elsing Spittle were considered fitter persons than the Seculars to preserve the possessions of the College and to answer the intention of the founder. The property was vested in this religious house until the time of

the dissolution of monasteries, when the revenue or endowment was either lost or held back, whilst the manorial rights with the advowson of the church came into the possession of the Crown. Henry VIII then conveyed these manorial rights to Sir Edward Baesh, in whose family they were held for several generations, then sold to Henry Lawrence in 1650, to Thomas Westrow in 1670, to Spenser Cowper in 1714; conveyed to William Cowper in 1740, to Charles Cowper in 1798, to his sister Mrs. Joseph Stephen Pratt in 1820, and to the Rev. Charles Pratt in 1838, from whose executors the estate was purchased in 1889 by the present owner. To the students of ecclesiastical law this church affords much interest as being one of the few donatives in England. Chauncy writes:—"A donative is a benefice which the patron may give to a man without presentation to the Ordinary, and such parochial church may be exempt from all ordinary jurisdiction. The incumbent may resign to the patron and not to the Ordinary. Neither can the Ordinary visit, but if the patron doth once present to the Ordinary and his clerk is admitted and instituted, it is become presentable and shall never be donative again. At first all advowsons were made donative, to encourage great men to build and endow them, and every founder gave possession to his new chaplain, delivering to him the key of the church door without presentation, institution, or induction by any mandate from the Bishop." In 1738–9 proceedings were taken on behalf of the Bishop of London before the Spiritual Judges in the Consistory Court against the incumbent of this parish, for contempt of court for disregarding the monition of the Bishop, and for refusing to elect churchwardens. Mr. William Cowper, as the patron of this donative, defended the action, and asserted his right of exemption from all jurisdiction; and the Court decided in favour of the patron to the effect that his rights were well established. That it is a parish church is proved by the fact that it has a communion-table, and that christenings and marriages have been and are performed therein, while, as we all can see, it has a burial-ground. The registers date from the year 1698. In 1898 an Act of Parliament was passed whereby every benefice with cure of souls which was donative on 1st of January, 1899, shall from that day be presentative, but that Act does not materially affect a church like this where there is no endowment. This little church may claim to rank with Westminster Abbey in one peculiarity as a donative, wherein it is the privilege for laymen to preach by consent of the patron. It is now a convenient opportunity to make known the change that is about to be made. Since the recent

STANSTEAD ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.
Portion of one of the Arches uncovered in the North Wall during Restoration.

death of the Rev. Charles Lilley, who officiated here for twenty-six years, the church was closed until the 26th May, 1902, when the services were resumed by the Rev. Hale Wortham, who is licensed by the Bishop and appointed by the patron. A permanent endowment of £100 per annum has been offered by the patron, provided the ecclesiastical authorities will endow it with a like sum, the right of exemption from the jurisdiction of the Ordinary being surrendered. This offer is now under consideration.

SEPTIMUS CROFT.

NOTE.—Since the foregoing account of this church was written, an application has been made to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and also to the Queen Anne's Bounty Fund for an endowment in augmentation to that proposed by the patron; but both these bodies are unable to grant the amount required.

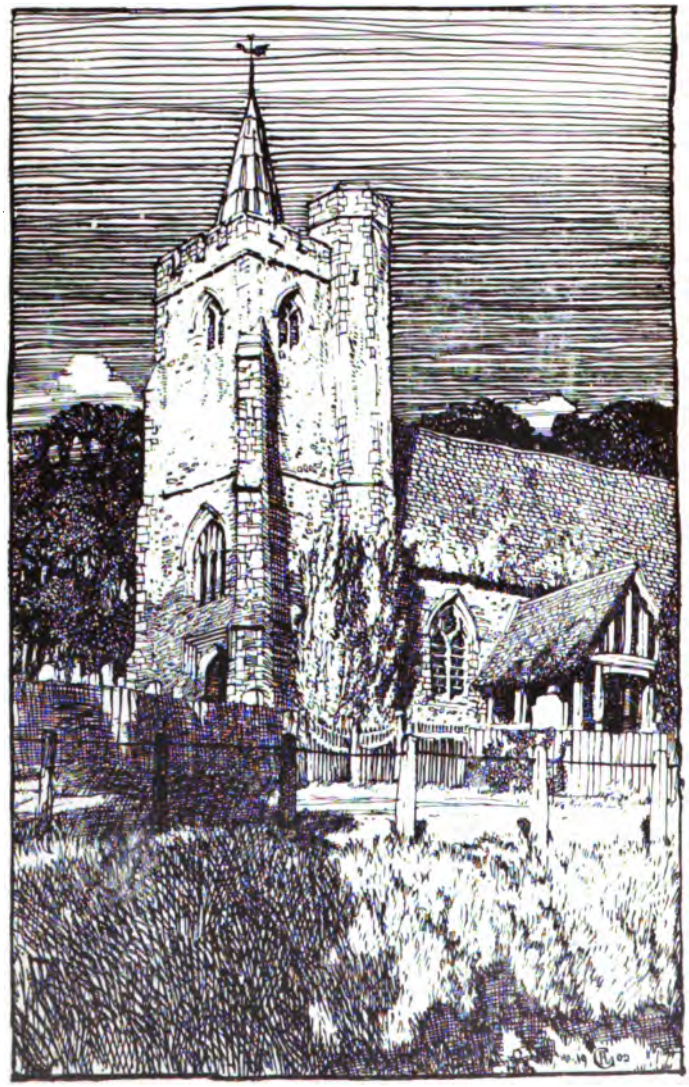
March, 1903. S. C.

LOST MEMORIAL BRASSES AT STANSTEAD ST. MARGARETS.

This interesting old church has lately been undergoing extensive repairs, and in course of the alterations a stone slab was discovered beneath the pulpit, upon which there formerly existed a brass and inscription of which the indents only remain. The brass appears to have been the half-length figure of a lady, but it was particularly small, being only 6½ inches in height. The inscription plate was 18 inches long and 4 inches wide, but it is impossible to say to whose memory it was laid down. From the appearance of the shape of the head of its figure, its date would seem to be about 1500. Another interesting object is also to be seen: this is a large slab of stone fixed to the wall of the entrance to the gallery stairs, which until lately was in the floor, but formerly laid in the chancel. This stone is hard and nearly black, and measures 7 feet 1 inch in length and 2 feet 11 inches in width at the top, and 2 feet 7½ inches in width at the bottom end, and is 5 inches in thickness. Upon the face of the stone can be seen the indents of a brass floriated cross, which probably had small steps at the bottom. In the centre of the head of the cross there is a space which seems to have held the figure of a man, somewhat similar to a brass in St. Michael's Church, St. Albans, of which an engraving and description can be seen in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1812. When the stone was originally fixed there was an incised inscription in Norman French or Lombardic letters all

round the edge of the surface, and which may have been filled in with brass or metal. The inscription has all disappeared with the exception of a portion on the left side, which is indistinct, but reads thus—: P U R : S A : A L M E : P R I E Z : It is a matter of conjecture whose name was engraved upon this stone or at what period it was fixed. Chauncy does not mention it in his "Historical Antiquities," and Cussans says nothing about it. Salmon, writing in 1728, says: "An old defaced Stone in the Chancel with Cross Fleury hath lost the name and hath nothing left but . . . . Pur sa Alme Priez le jour . . . ." In all probability this memorial denoted the burial-place of a priest of the church during the early part of the fourteenth century, or of some one in authority belonging to the College or Religious House which formerly existed here in connection with the church. This College had a Master and four Chaplains, and was established in 1315 and dissolved in 1431.

W. F. Andrews.



STANSTEAD ABBOTS CHURCH.

(From "Highways and Byeways in Hertfordshire," by permission of Messrs. Macmillan & Co.)

STANSTEAD ABBOTTS.

Stanstead Abbotts is so called from its connection with the Abbey of Waltham, distinguishing it from Stanstead Montfichet and the neighbouring Stanstead Thele or St. Margarets. Its territorial possessions are recorded in the Domesday Book. The abbot and convent by lease 7th November, 14 Henry VIII, demised to John Rodes the manor of Stanstead for 61 years, at the rent of £25 6*s.* 8*d.* In the 33rd year of Henry VIII, at the dissolution of the monasteries, it came to the Crown, whence it was conveyed to Philip Paris at the nominal rent of 4*s.* 4*d.*, from whom it passed to Edward Baeshe, Esq., Surveyor General of the victuals for the Royal Navy and marine affairs from Henry VIII till Elizabeth, he dying 2nd May, 1587. His monument and that of his son Ralph Baeshe, who succeeded him, are in the chapel mentioned hereafter. Ralph died 8th May, 1598. Edward his son, one of the chamberlains of the Court of Exchequer, received knighthood, was M.P. for Grantham 15 Car. I, and died without issue in 1653. It was this Sir Edward Baeshe who built the almshouse at the foot of Catt's Hill, and by deed dated 10th November, 1636, settled it on trustees for the use of six poor widows, and gave land for the payment of 12*d.* a week to each. He also by will, dated 1652, charged the manor of Stanstead with the rent of £25 for payment of 12*d.* a week more, and the residue for apprenticing poor children. By the same deed he gave £20 a year for a schoolmaster to teach a free grammar school in this parish, the building being at the head of the street, and called the chapel school, having been used at one time during the Commonwealth for divine service, and serving in the week for a schoolhouse. He also gave a small cottage of 40 shillings a year for the use of the clerk for the time being, and a house with land for the use of the vicar. He was buried in the vault under the chapel, and was succeeded by Ralph Baeshe, his cousin, who was knighted at the coronation of Charles II, and incurring debt by his loyalty to the King, obtained an Act of Parliament to sell part of the manor and lands. Edward Baeshe, his son, succeeded him, and was knighted at the restoration of Charles II. He sold this manor to Edmund Fielde, of Marden, in this county, in 1676, in whose family it remained till 1824, when it was sold to Philip

Hollingsworth, of Thundridge, Esq., he bequeathing it to his sister, who directed that at her death it should be sold for the benefit of the children of Paul Meyers, of Forty Hill, Enfield. It was bought by Dr. Abraham Wilkinson, of Enfield, who, dying shortly afterwards, left it to his son, who sold it to the present owner, Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq. The old Manor house stands within the limits of a Roman encampment, the term Bury or Burgh perhaps indicating a fortress on its site. It was a grange belonging to the Abbey of Waltham. In the wall of one of its cellars are two niches, one a piscina, the other, without drainhole, a locker or aumbry, and a square recess in its east wall for an altar, undoubtedly constructed after the suppression of religious houses for celebration of Mass in secret. Evidences of the Roman encampment appear from fragments of pottery found in the churchyard, and from the Roman bricks to be seen in the walls, notably in the east wall of the chancel.

A church existed here as early as 1100, Robert de Wancy, lord of the manor during the reigns of William II and Henry I, granting it to the Priory of Merton, in Surrey; and in 1293 an enquiry was instituted into the character of John, vicar of the church of Stanstede. The present church, dedicated to St. James, stands one mile south-east of the village, close, as is frequently the case, to the Manor house. It consists of chancel, nave, chapel on north side, and with a square embattled tower at the west end. The nave and chancel are said to have been erected about 1350 or 1400, and the tower a century later. The distinction of nave and chancel does not appear from the exterior, but internally the limits of the chancel are defined by the remains of a chancel screen in one of the pews, and by the moulding on the beams and boarding of the ceiling. The present high pews are said to date from the year 1710. A sounding-board formerly over the pulpit was taken down a few years ago and worked into a screen in the arch under the tower. There is a double piscina on the south side of the chancel. The present east window was inserted in 1866 in memory of Mr. Chaplin, a resident in a house formerly existing on Catt's Hill. On each side of the east window underneath the tablets, on which are inscribed the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, are mutilated oil paintings of Moses and Aaron. Above the east window are the Royal Arms, with the monogram "W. M." (William and Mary), dated 1698, and the Commandments. The font appears to be of two dates, the upper round portion being of a different character from the lower. The tower contains three bells, with the following inscriptions: (1) 1605, Robert Oldfield

made me; (2) God save the King, 1617; (3) Philip Trayherne, C. Warden. John Briant, Hartford, Fecit, 1790.

Near the communion-rails is a brass on which is engraved the figure of a man in legal robes and a ruff. It is in memory of William Saxaye, son of Henry and Joyce Saxaye, who died 1581, aged 23. His mother married secondly William Frankland, lord of the Manor of St. Margarets. In memory of her son she founded scholarships at Caius College, Cambridge, besides afterwards making generous benefactions during her lifetime and by will to this and to other colleges. The circumstances in which her thoughts were first directed to these gifts are given by Dr. Nowell, Dean of St. Paul's, her executor, in a letter to Archbishop Whitgift. He says:—

"One, Mrs. Frankland, late of Herts, widowe, having one only sonne, who youthfully venturing to ride upon an unbroken young horse, was throwne down and slaine. Whereuppon the mother fell into sorrowes uncomfortable; whereof I, being of her acquaintance, having intelligence, did with all speede ride unto her house near to Hodgeden (Hoddesdon) to comfort her the best I could. And I found her cryenge, or rather howlinge continually, 'Oh my sonne, my sonne.' And when I could by no comfortable words stay her from that cry and tearinge of her hair, God, I think, put me in mind at the last to say: 'Comfort yourself, good Mrs. Frankland, and I will tell you how you shall have twenty good sonnes to comfort you in these your sorrowes which you take for this one sonne.' To the which words only she gave eare, and lookinge up asked, 'How can that be?' And I sayd unto her: 'You are a widdowe, rich and now childlesse, and there be in both Universities so many pore youthes that lack exhibition, for whom if you would founde certain fellowships and schollerships, to be bestowed uppon studious younge men, who should be called Mrs. Frankland's Schollers, they would be in love towards you as deare children, and will most hartely pray to God for you duringe your life; and they and their successors after them, being still Mrs. Frankland's schollers, will honour your memory for ever and ever.' This being sayd, 'I will,' quoth she, 'thinke thereuppon earnestly.' And though she lived a long time after, yet she gave in her Testament to the College of Brasen Nose in Oxford a very great summe, and to Gonville and Caius College she gave £1540 in money, and in annual rents besides for ever £33 6*s.* 8*d.*"

The portraits of Mrs. Frankland and of her parents, Robert and Joan Trapps, are in the Combination Room of Caius College.

Another brass found under a pew during recent work has been set up close to the chancel door. It represents a warrior trampling on a dragon. In the aisle beneath the pulpit and reading-desk is a small brass of man and woman with hands conjoined. There are said to be other brasses concealed by pews.

Amongst other mural monuments in the nave is one on the north wall to Sir Felix Booth, created a baronet by William IV as a reward for his patriotism in fitting out at his sole cost an expedition in the endeavour to discover a North-West passage in the year 1829, and from whom the land called Boothia received its name. There are monuments to other members of this family, the latest erected in memory of Sir Charles Booth, the last baronet, as a memorial to whom this church has been recently cleaned and renovated. The hatchments in the nave are those of the Booth family.

There is a recent memorial window in the tower to William Henry and Jane Teale, of Rye House.

We come now to the chapel on the north, built, according to a stone in the wall outside over the east window, by Edward Baeshe, in the year 1577. The principal monument in the chapel is that of the founder, represented in armour, and opposite him his wife, both kneeling, while below are the effigies of Ralph and his wife. Underneath are some quaint lines commemorating the departed as the Mæcenas of the author's youth. The monument presents some beautiful work. There are also monuments in this chapel to Edmund Fielde and others of his family, and to Robert Jocelyn and other members of his family, both of Stanstead Bury.

In the east window of the chapel are the arms of Queen Elizabeth, surmounted by a crown and supported by two satyr-like figures, with the date 1573; and a Tudor rose imperially crowned in the same window.

Fragments of Baeshe's arms with his motto, "Boulde in God," and a piece of glass inscribed "in æternum" are in the north window over the present vestry.

There is also on the north side a memorial window to Captain Trower, late of Stanstead Bury.

On the east wall can be read the words of the psalm, "Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam," and there are remains of an inscription not now legible on the north wall. When the recent renovation was carried out there were found beneath the chapel eighteen stone coffins and a large urn, the use of which was not evident. The chapel belongs to Stanstead Bury, the freehold of which is in the hands of the Phelips family.

It is said that the fine porch of chestnut-wood on the south side of the church is of the date of this chapel. The floor of the porch is paved with lids of stone coffins said to have been discovered when digging the foundation of the chapel. In the churchyard near this porch is an old mutilated slab on which is a crozier or cross. Nearer the entrance gate is the tomb of the wife of Randle Cheney, of Broxbourne, who left by will, dated 1795, £20 in 3 per cents for the purpose of keeping it in repair.

The advowson of the living remained with the prior and convent of Merton until the dissolution of the monasteries, when it came to the Crown, and in the years 1550–1552 was in the gift of Lady Mary, afterwards Queen. It then came into the hands of Edward Baeshe, remaining in his family till 1676, when it passed to W. H. Fielde. In 1847 it was purchased by W. K. Thomas, from whom it passed into the hands of trustees, the present patrons.

A new church, built by Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq., of Easneye, was consecrated December 29th, 1881, and by instrument dated March 16th, 1882, constituted the Parish Church.

The date of the earliest entry in the parish registers is 1678.

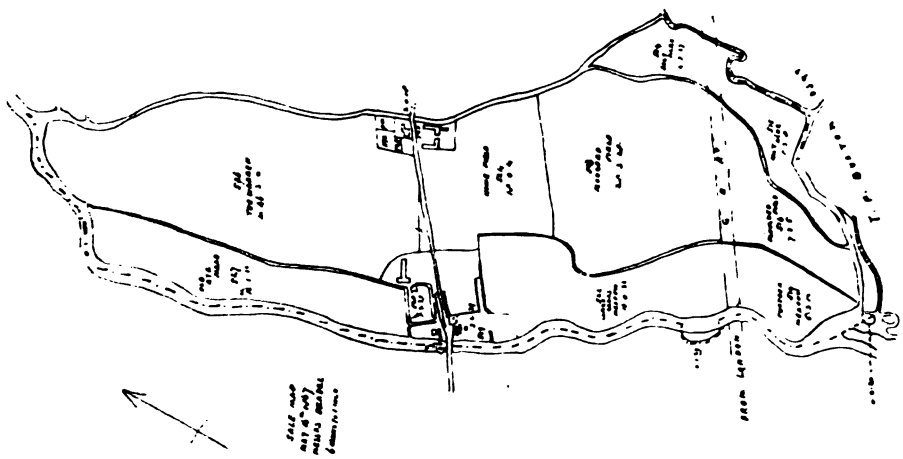
J. W. Lewis.

THE RYE HOUSE CASTLE AND MANOR OF RYE.

Not much is known of the Manor and Castle of Rye before the time of 33 Henry VI, and diligent research has only given us a little more than that which is a matter of every-day history; but there is some additional information which may prove interesting and useful. The extent of this manor has up to the present time been very obscure, mainly on account of an error in Cussans' History of Herts; I have therefore been at considerable pains to prove its boundaries. The original document, which is found in the Calend. Rot. Chart., 21–24 Henry VI, No. 44, reads as follows:—

"Archepis. Epis. Salutem . . . Andree Ogard, milit., John Clifton, John Fasholt, milit., et Willo Oldehall, milit., ac dilas nob., Robert Whyttyngham amigo, et Willo Poys, . . . yd ipi situm manu . . . de Rye alias dict.; Insule de Rye, in Stansted Abbis, in Com. Hertford; et quinquaginta acras (land), 10 acras prati, quat. viginti acras pasti, sexdecem acras bosti [thus giving nearly the true quantity of 156 acres], suas infra insulam praedictam includere, & paperum inde fade ac situm manu praedicta, cum petris et calce includere, turrellare, remellare, batellare, et machecollare, pro eundem situm sic includum . . . ac parcum illium sic inclusum, tenere posuit sibi per heredis suis . . . pratum, pastura, et bostus, illa non suit infra metas foreste. . . . Per Bachon et Wellen Cancellario uro, . . . per Humphrey Gloucester, et carissimo consanguineo," on payment of £10. But Cussans, quoting from Placita de quo warranto, 6 Edward II, 38*d*, says "That the manor originally formed part of the possessions of the abbot of Waltham." So far he is correct, but when he goes on to say that "it consists of 50 acres of arable land, 11 acres of meadow, 8 acres of pasture, and 16 acres of wood" (or, in all, 85 acres), he erred in his reading of the original document. We learn from the Calend. Inquis. Post Mortem, 33 Henry VI, No. 25, that "Andreas Ogard, Miles, held Le Rye Maner, Thele Maner, et advoc. Eccli. collegiat; Newgates Maner, Heyleigh Maner, and Thele, Amwell, Hoddesdon, Ware, Widdeford, Onesdon, Estwike, et Stansted Abbotts," i.e. free warren, "and that in the whole there were 10 messuag, 8 tofts,

EAST FRONT OF THE RYE HOUSE CASTLE GATEWAY.



MANOR OF THE RYE.

100 acres prat., 200 acres past., 200 acres bosc, et 40 Credd. affis ibm." The calendar also states that he owned Bockenham Castle and Bockenham (nova maner) in Norfolk. He had a wife named Alice, and a son Henry, who was only four years old on the death of his father on October 13th, 1454. From the *Antiquary* we find that Sir Andrew Ogard was Baron of Deville, Pays de Court, Normandy; also Baron Beaufort, Lord of the Castle of Ouvilliers in Anjou, and of Merveille near St. Savory de Yffe near Tewke, having an income from the dues of his castles of fully £1,000 a year.

Also from Secunda Patent ac Anno 11 Regis Henrici Sexti, M. 13, we learn "Dacus factus est indigena," i.e., that he was a Dane not exactly naturalized, but denizized; and in this it would be very interesting to know if there could have been any possible connection between him and the Danes who sailed past this island manor fully 500 years before. It is believed that he was the successor of the William de Albini, in title, who was the founder of the Priory of Wymondham in Norfolk. Ogard had a quarrel with the Abbot of St. Albans about that Priory, and was the means of Wymondham becoming a separate abbacy. For in the "Annales of Monasterii de S. Albani," compiled by Johanne Amundesham, Monacho, about A.D. 1421–1440, occurs this passage: "Litera missa Domini Johanni Stoke, Abbati, hujus Monasterii, per magistrum Stefanum London suum Obedientiariarum, causa exemptionis Cellae de Wymondham." A footnote to the same says, "The occasion of this singular letter may be gathered from the account given in Dugdale's Monasticon" (ed. Ellis, iii, p. 326). Weaver says: "John Stoke, the 7th of that christian name, Abbat of St. Albans, could not endure a certain monk of the church whose name was Stephen London, because he would tell him of his faults; therefore to be rid of his company (his admonishments being distasteful) he persuaded the Archdeacon to take upon him the charge of the Priory of Wymondham, then void of a Prior. The Archdeacon accepted of it, and was admitted a Prior by the Bishop of Norwich in 1446; and being a worthy man, pleased both his flock and Sir Andrew Ogard, Knt, his founder, very well; which more displeased the Abbott, who within a year sent express command to discharge him of his Priorship. This was but ill taken by himself and his patron, insomuch that in 1447 the Prior and Sir Andrew petitioned the King, that they might have his licence to obtain a bull from the Pope, to erect Wymondham into an abbey, and set forth, that the founder, William de Albini, had reserved liberty in the foundation deed for the King and the Patron

to do so at any time. They complained also that the Abbotts of St. Albans had presented monks of St. Albans to the Priorship contrary to the founder's intentions, which had tied the office to the election of monks of Wymondham out of their own number. The King licensed Sir Andrew Ogard to procure a bull from the Pope, which he did from Pope Nicholas V in 1448, when Wymondham was converted into an independent abbey; Stephen London the then Prior was made the first Abbott." By the Calendar of Patent Rolls of 1461, M. 14, we find there was made on June 22nd a "Grant to Lawrence, Bishop of Durham, of the custody of Henry Ogard, (the son and heir of Andrew Ogard), during the minority of the said Henry, and his possessions; (his father being dead) with his marriage; and rendering a sum to be agreed upon before Christmas with the treasurer." This, according to M. 22, February 4th, 1462, was altered and explained, "all his possessions and lands within the realm, with the marriage of the heir, without rendering anything to the King, in lieu of a similar grant by letters patent dated 22nd June surrendered." From the same calendar we learn that Ogard held the Norfolk lands in chief, by the service of being butler to the King at his coronation; but by a deed of M. 6, January 25th, 1463, there is shown a "Grant to George Duke of Clarence and his heirs, from Michaelmas last past of several manors; *inter alia*, the manors and lordships of the Rie, Co. Hertford—late of Henry Ogerd, son and heir of Andrew Ogerd, Knt." So that this manor must have been held in fee simple of the crown unto heirs male only, as the widow of Andrew does not seem to have possessed it, and it also appears that the son had either died before 1463, or, being a minor (then only about 13 years of age), the Crown held his estates as trustee. This is the more probable, as there is a will of Sir Henry Ogard at Somerset House, together with his father Andrew's will of 1454, and another of an Andrew in 1526. The Herts genealogist and antiquary, Mr. Briggs, in his book published in 1895, gives the following notices of deeds extant respecting the Ogard family and their descendants, viz.:—

1550. Easter term, 4 Edward VI: Thomas Bennett and George Ogerd, Esq., as to land in Amwell.

1551. Michaelmas term: Edmund Wylson and George Ogerd, Esq., as to 49 acres of wood in Great Amwell, Little Amwell, Stanstead, and Thele.

1557. Michaelmas term, 4 and 5 Philip and Mary (Feet of Fines): Gilbert Hyll, gent., George Ogard, Esq., messuage and lands in Stanstead Abbotts.

1559. Easter term, 1 Elizabeth (Feet of Fines): Gilbert Hyll, gent., George Ogard, Esq., messuage and lands in Stanstead Thele, Stansteade St. Margarete, Amwell, and Hoddesdon.

Also, Robert Grave, George Ogard, messuage and lands in Stanstead Abbott, Thundryche, Ware, and Amwell.

1560. Easter term, 2 Elizabeth: William Frankland, of London, clothworker, George Ogard, Esq., manors of Goldingtons, Theyls *alias* St. Margaretts, Theyle *alias* Stanstead Theyle, and Hayle, and messuages and lands in Stanstead Abbotts, Stanstead Theyle, Saynt Margaretts Theyle, Hoddesdon, Amwell, Honesdon, Wyldeford, Ware, Broxeborne, Rye, and Thundryche; and John Thurgood, George Ogard, Esq., messuage and lands in Stanstead Thele, Stanstead Abbotts, and Amwell.

Also, William Frankland, of London, clothworker, George Ogard, Esq., and Joan his wife, manors of Rye, *alias* Insula de Rye, Goldyngtons, etc., etc.

We have before noted that Andrew Ogard obtained a license from King Henry VI to impark his manor of Rye, and to build a castle thereon; we will therefore go on to speak of its boundaries, which included 156 acres of land and free warren, etc. He (Andrew Ogard) was to build the castle on his manor of Rye, also called the Isle of Rye; but the space of ground at present occupied by the Castle Gateway and its adjuncts is only 3 acres 3 roods 39 poles, all contained within the area of the moat. This we may call the first island, and was most likely the one known by the name of the Isle of Rye (proper), but that designation had no reference to any particular space of ground, for on looking to a sale plan of the year 1867, we find the west border to be the River Lea, and the east border to be the first ditch which runs almost parallel to it on the east side, and which encloses another space which may be called the second Isle of Rye, but this leaves out the Rye farm and the fields called in the sale particulars "The Warren," now used as a sewage farm for Ware town. So on the east side of the Rye farm we see another ditch which runs nearly north and south from the River Lea into the River Stort, and this forms the third Isle of Rye, and is estimated to include 156 acres 3 roods 9 poles of ground, and which, therefore, is believed to be the actual boundaries of the manor of Rye in ancient times. On the east side of this largest island the land has always been called common land, so that, generally speaking, the parish boundary of Stanstead at this part was the boundary of this manor; and as we have before mentioned that the sewage farm is known as "The Warren," we have a partial proof of its having been

included in the manor, as the name has survived to this day, Ogard having been given "Free Warren" over this and other manors and lordships.[1]

In the license to Ogard to build the castle and impark his manor, which we quoted at the commencement of this paper, occur the words "non suit infra metas foreste," i.e. not being within the metes or bounds of our forest; accordingly we find that this manor is just outside of, and no part of it is within, those bounds.

The Rye House is the place near which the ancient north-west corner stone boundary of Epping Forest is situated, at the junction of the Rivers Lea and Stort; and which important forest mark the owner of the Rye House, it is said, a few years since restored at his own cost. He has also ever given his best services towards the preservation of the ancient rights and privileges of Her Majesty, and those of the Corporation of the City of London, in and over Epping Forest, as well as to the protection of the wild beasts, birds, and fish appertaining to this royal forest. The Rivers Lea and Stort form its north-west boundary, as determined by the Royal Inquisition in the time of Charles I. Also in the immediate vicinity is the renowned "Oak Tree Field," the favourite fishing-ground of that worthy citizen Isaac Walton.

This manor was possessed by Edward Baesh, a descendant of him of the same name, who, as appears by his epitaph in Stanstead Church, had been a General Surveyor for the victuals of the Navy Royal, of the Marine Establishment under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth. Edward, the first of the family who possessed this estate, died in 1653 without issue, and was succeeded by his brother Ralph, who for his zeal in the Royal cause was made a Knight of the Bath. He was followed by his son Edward, who was knighted, and he in 1676 sold this manor to Edmund Field, who was M.P. for Hertford in the twentieth year of Charles II. At his death it came into the possession of Paul Field, one of the burgesses of the town of Hertford, and there it remained for many years, until at last it came into the ownership of Anthony Upton, who was a wine merchant, and partner in trade with Henry Rumbold at Puerta Sta. Maria, and in 1857 the manor was sold and divided up, 24½ acres being purchased by the late Mr. W. H. Teale for about £5,000.

Carthew's History of West and East Brandenham gives copious notes on the family of Ogard. The family failed in the male line

[1] The parish boundary is in the centre of the River Lea and the old bed of the River Stort.

towards the end of the seventeenth century, but the present families named Haggard, Hoggard, Hagard, etc., claim their descent from a junior or collateral branch of the original Ogard. His arms were azure, a mullet of six points argent, but his arms in the spandrels of the gateway at the Rye are so decayed as to be practically undecipherable.

Andrew Ogard died at Bockenham in 1454, and was buried there, and "habuit in stauro de auro Francie in cista apud Dominum Robertum Whytyngham circa septem millia marcarum Anglise."

The following is taken from the itinerary of William Botoner, or William of Worcester, pp. 86, 87, and published from MS. in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge :—

"Nobilitas Andrese Agard, Chevalier, qui obiit Anno Christi 1454, die Sancti Kalixti, apud Bockenham. De proporcione et mensura Manerii de Rye, per 16 miliaria de London, in Essex; Memorandum, ye utter court at Rye ys 75 steppys yn length, and yn brede 60 steppys. The hede of ye mote ys 20 steppys. Item, From ye utter gate to ye logge paled and parked yn every side, ys yn length 360 tayllors yardes. Aula continet yn longitudine 34 pedes, et yn latitudine 24 pedes. Item, Claustri longitudo continet 17 virgas et dimidiam, et latitudo continet 13 virgas. Longitudinis quadrati principalis. Andreas per 8 annos in Anglia existens custodiebat; capellam in domo sua de presbreteris ad expensas 100 libr. per annum. Item, Dedit Ecclisiæ Wyndham Abbey, xv capas de panno auro, coloris blodii; cum les orfreys, cum suis armis. Perquisitu Manerii de Rye constabat 1130 libr. Item, Granarum 16 equi., et 30 vaccæ, cum le storehows mercandizarum 2000 marcarum."

Cussans, in his Part i, Hundred of Braughin, gives us the following translation in part only :—"The outer court is 75 paces in length and 60 in breadth. The head of the moat is 20 paces. From the outer gate to the lodge, parked and paled on every side, is in length 360 yards. The courtyard is 34 ft. long and 24 ft. wide. The length of the enclosure is 17½ rods, and the width 13 rods. The principal court is 28 rods in length on the north side, and 39 rods on the east. The purchase of the manor amounted to £1130. The Granary, 16 horses, and 30 cows, with the storehouses 2000 marks. Building the inner court with brick, and the rooms together with the enclosure and repairs, 2000 marks."

Note.—The range of artillery during the reign of Henry VI is clearly exemplified by the erection of a Castle at the Rye. It is

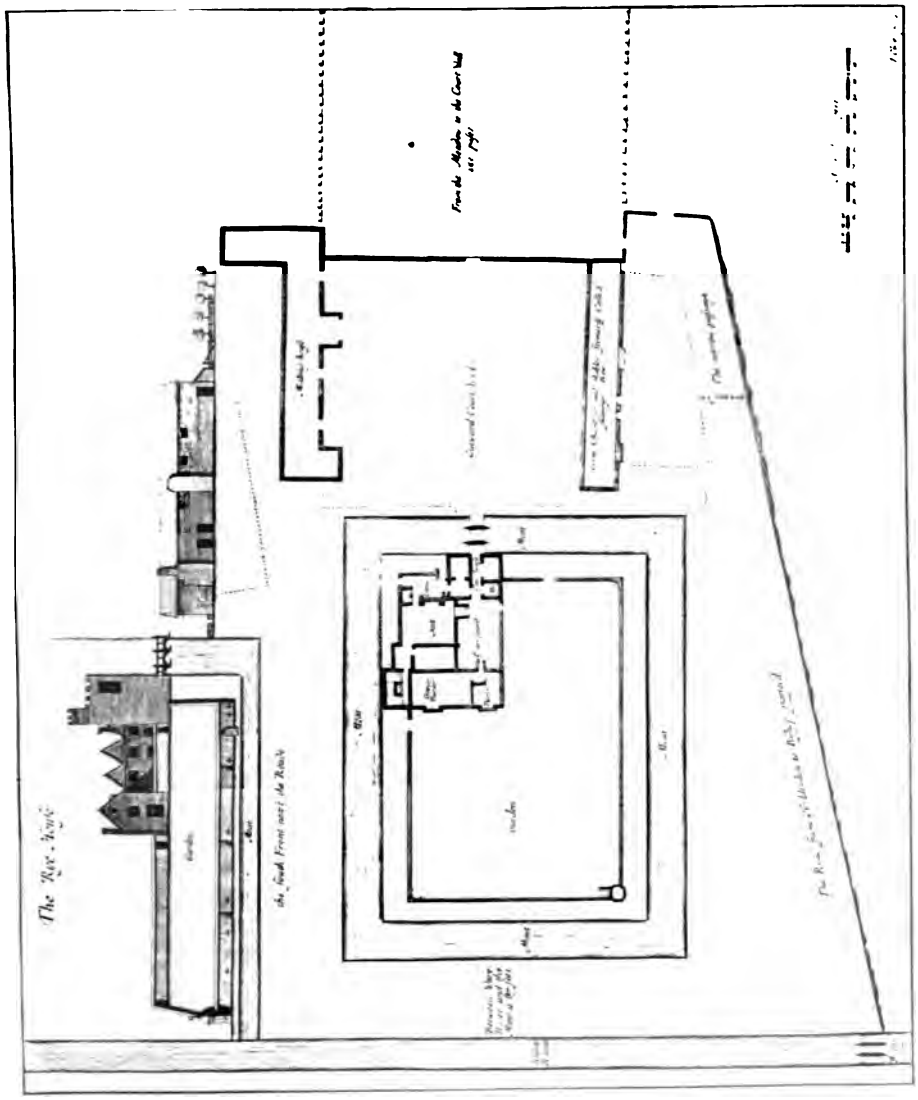
completely commanded by the heights of Stanstead-bury not a mile distant. That which Cussans has omitted is, "That Andrew for the last 8 years of his life in England had a chapel in his house, with clerks and choristers, and his expenses were £100 per annum, and that he gave to the church at Wymondham Abbey 15 scarlet and gold coloured copes with their orphreys, by his own hands."

The house and grounds of the manor of Rye formerly occupied a considerable space, which was surrounded by a moat, and was partly filled in so that it formed a small island, and was accordingly sometimes named the "Isle of Rye." Again, another says: "When the Castle was built the site was called the 'Isle of Rye,' and the founder had free warren there, and also in the villages of Stanstead, Amwell, Hoddesdon, Ware, and Widford."

This place perhaps bore the ancient name of Isle since the time of the Danes, when the meadows on both sides were covered with water. There is yet a part of the old building standing; at least, something built in the old form when the first decayed. It seems as if this castle was built to awe that neighbourhood, and that the Lords of the Vills were disaffected to the then possessor of the Crown, and therefore that the king's authority was exerted to invade their privileges.

Regarding the derivation of this name of Rye, it may be said, with Isaac Taylor, that the root RHE or RHIN is connected with the Gaelic REA, i.e. Rapid, and with the Welsh RHE, i.e. Swift; thus we have the River Rhee in Herts, the Rey in Wilts, Ray in Oxon, etc. But Edmunds gives us a more likely source, viz., Ray, Rea, Rei, Reigh, Rey, from Ree, English for a stream, as Rayleigh, Essex, the place at the stream; River Rea, Warwick; Reigate, a gate or fort at the stream; Reydon, the hill at the stream; or RY from RIH, i.e. Rough, as Ri-haela of the Saxon Chronicle, Ryhall in Rutland, i.e. the hall in the rough place; and Wagner says it is so called from the Rye on which it stands, Rye being an old English term for a common, and derived from REE, a watercourse; hence Peckham Rye.

In the year 1685 was published and printed by Thomas Newcomb, one of His Majesty's printers, "A true account and declaration of the horrid conspiracy against the late King, His present Majesty, and the Government; as it was ordered to be published by his late Majesty." It contains all the evidence adduced at the trial of the conspirators. Portraits are given of Titus Oates and King James II, and a plan of the Rye House castle and grounds as produced at the trial, with a view of the buildings, malthouse, corn chambers, stables, and their surroundings.



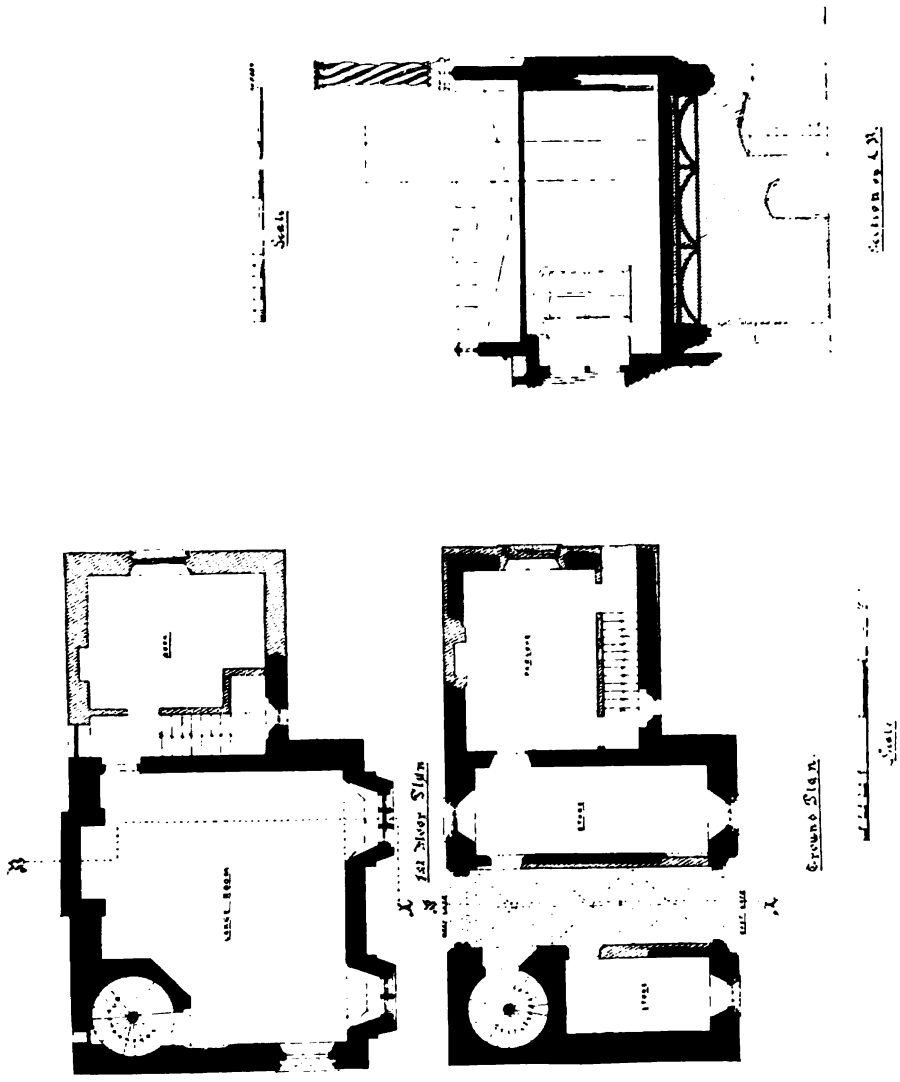
GROUND PLAN OF THE RYE HOUSE, 1685.

From the History of the Rye House Plot.

There is also "A particular account of the situation of the Rye house," as follows: "The Rye house in Hartfordshire, about 18 miles from London, is so called from the 'Rye,' a meadow near it. Just under it there is a bye road from Bishops' Strafford (*sic*) to Hoddesdon, which was constantly used by the King when he went to or from Newmarket, the great road winding much about on the right hand by Stanstead. The house is an old strong building, and stands alone, encompassed by a mote, and towards the garden has high walls, so that 20 men might easily defend it for some time against 500. From a high tower in the house all that go or come may be seen both ways for near a mile's distance. As you come from Newmarket towards London, when you are near the house, you pass the meadow over a narrow causeway, at the end of which is a tollgate, which having entered, you go through a yard and a little field, and at the end of that through another gate you pass into a narrow lane, where at that time two coaches could not go abreast. This narrow passage had on the left hand a thick hedge and a ditch, on the right a long range of buildings used for corn chambers, and stables with several doors and windows looking into the road, and before it a pale which then made the passage so narrow, but is since removed. When you are past this long building you go by the mote, and the garden wall that is very strong, and has divers holes in it through which many men might shoot. Along by the mote and wall the road continues to the Ware river, which runs about twenty or thirty yards from the mote, and is to be passed by a bridge. A small distance from thence another bridge is to be passed over the New River. In both of which passes few men may oppose great numbers. In the outer courtyard which is behind the long building, a considerable body of horse and foot might be drawn up unperceived from the road, whence they might easily issue out at the same time into each end of the narrow lane, which was also to be stopped up by the overturning of a cart."

From the plan produced at the trial of Lord William Russell in 1685, we find that the castle was of considerable extent; the gatehouse occupying only the south-east angle. On the north side of this were two small rooms each about 12 feet square, and a kitchen about 22 by 14 feet; to the west of which was a small staircase, and next to it a hall 30 feet long and 24 feet wide. At the west end was a great parlour 35 feet long and 20 feet wide, and a smaller one about 17 by 16 feet, with other apartments or passages; and a large open well-hole staircase in the north-west angle; all these except the gatehouse are entirely demolished, and the site covered

either wholly or in part by modern buildings. The malting-house, now used as a dining-hall, is of as ancient a date as the castle gateway itself, being no doubt built by Ogard at the same time. The most interesting part of the castle is the gatehouse, which even after so many years shows what the builders of 1440 could do. It is built of red bricks (which were most likely made somewhere in the immediate neighbourhood). These are 9 inches long, 4½ inches wide, and generally 2 inches thick, but some are slightly thicker, viz. 2½ inches. It has a moulded stone gateway of the period, arched above, and with a square head, and with the same mouldings carried round the spandrels, which are filled in with the arms of Ogard, and other devices, but their state will not allow of their decipherment. On each side of the entrance are two small windows with moulded reveals and heads, and with labels over them which are returned at their ends. Above the gateway the brickwork is relieved by an arch in brick, and the colour of the brickwork by being wrought in diamonds in darker bricks and supported by a beautiful arcade of cut red work. At the front above the ground floor are two handsome oriel windows, one of two and the other of three lights, which are made to spring out of the main walls upon very elaborate moulded brick corbelling, each window being finished with battlements. Above these windows is a cornice of stone having grotesque faces at intervals upon it, and gargoyles at the angles, but these are too much worn to show what they were originally intended to represent. The walls on the top are finished with brick battlements and stone coping. In some of these battlements are narrow slits in the form of a cross having enlarged ends, so that firearms or other weapons could be employed to defend the entrance and the drawbridge over the moat; this was raised or lowered by chains in the usual way through the loopholes left in the ends of the arcade over the gateway. The walls are from 2 ft. 4 ins. to 2 ft. 7 ins. in thickness, and are evidently carried down to some considerable depth for a foundation on the gravel, which no doubt exists here as on the other side of the New River. The depth of the central pillar of the turret stairs is about 6 ft. 9 ins. below the ground floor, and there may (but with no show of probability) have been a subterranean way to Nether Hall, or to some dungeons or small prison; but nothing of these can now be found. One description given appears to be highly mythical. It states: "The dungeon in which many a political prisoner has perished, and the subterranean vault of granite, are indications of the natural resources of the fortress." There is no indication of its ever having been in any sense a fortress,



PLAN SECTION OF THE RYE HOUSE CASTLE GATEWAY.

although it commanded a ford of the Lea, yet was itself wholly commanded by the higher ground on the east and north. "The well nigh choked up moat still bears testimony to the age when the castles and halls of England's barons had a safeguard from intrusion as much by day as by night." In the south-west angle of the gatehouse is left the tower and its circular brick staircase and newel. This staircase is somewhat peculiar, because of its great width of 3 ft. 1 in. It might have been built of this size that it might accommodate several persons at one time upon it, and in this respect it differs wholly from the stairs to our church belfries, or to the rood lofts (where such remain), they being generally but little more than 2 feet to 2 ft. 6 ins. in width. There is a cut moulded brick hand-rail built within the face of the wall all the way up from the ground floor as far as the doorway leading out upon the roof; there is a break in this where the doorway into what is called the "Conspirators Room" occurs; this doorway, I believe, is a modern one, as the hand-rail does not finish rightly on either side of it; still, as there is an evident landing here in the staircase (which does not appear to have been altered), it is most likely that this doorway has been in some time past enlarged. The staircase is in a good state of preservation, and would last for many years, unless destroyed by the ivy which is suffered to grow about it and the tower top, which is gradually rending the walls as well as hindering the view all round.

The centre battlement, both at the front and the back of this gateway, is built differently from the rest; the front one carries an iron bar or spike, on which it was said the head of Colonel Armstrong was placed after his execution, for his share in the Rye House Plot of 1683. On the west wall is left the only one of the beautiful Tudor chimney shafts, which must, in the early time of the castle, have made the building a highly ornamental one; although the elevation of 1683 does not give us any idea of such being the case. It is composed of four 8 in. circular ribs, disposed on a rectangular base, carried up spirally with fillets between them, and finished at a height of about 11 ft. 5 ins. with a small ornamental capital; the base is a deep moulded one, increasing its size to that of the under base. This chimney shaft is a very beautiful example of the cut and moulded work of the Tudor times, and it is very questionable whether there is at this time any workmen in existence in this kingdom who are in any way capable of even copying it, much more originating such good work; it is even now in fair repair and condition.

The inner opening of the gateway is also in brick, and arched, but is much plainer work, and above it and its attendant window towards the north, the arcade of the front is repeated, but only covers half the entrance and half the window; this was most likely so built to strengthen the back of the fireplace in what is called the "Conspirators Room." This room is 25 feet long, 21 feet wide, and 15 feet high from the floor to the ceiling, and has no pretensions to architecture; in the south-west corner is a large projection into the room, forming the tower with its circular staircase; it has a low, wide, and deep fireplace, formed almost entirely in the thickness of the outer wall; being 6 ft. 7 ins. wide and only 3 ft. 6 ins. in height, it is finished with a very flat and plain moulded arch. Although this room is called the "Conspirators Room," there are no records extant that they ever really met there; it is now occupied with several curious specimens of antiquity, old arms, armour, tapestry, and furniture; and with a bedstead believed to have been brought from Queen Elizabeth's hunting lodge in Epping Forest. As to its traditions, or folklore, it can well be imagined that there would be plenty of such attached to it; one says, "its creaking stair [which does not exist], its walls full of warning tickings [might be insects], its rooms with unaccounted shadows [there is one room only, and no shadows], where whispers seem to die in confused murmurings [all these do *not* go to make history]." No doubt but that for many years the castle was the centre of much life and frolic, and also of more serious matters (the times then, being far more serious to the nation at large, as well as to the individual, than our own), but it is now practically empty, and its ancient glory departed, "as the oast house that glowed yonder where the red roof is," and which is now dignified by the name of the Baronial, or Retainers hall, in this far more prosaic age. Many views of the old gateway are extant, but scarcely any show the remainder of the castle. The book of the trial of 1685, before quoted, shows the south elevation of the whole, with two gables and part of a third over the hall, with rooms on the first floor, and a battlemented top to the tower; also a wider gable over the great and little parlour, with windows on the ground and first floor looking into the garden, a small window to a room in the roof, a low wall with a coping enclosing the courtyard, and the extensive garden wall with two alcoves in the angles, with piers and a small tower of one story at its south-west angle, and with at least seven narrow slits or loopholes in it for defence.

The castle (which has now disappeared) commanded the ford of the river Lea, and was surrounded by a moat; the openings for the

chain of the drawbridge are still visible on either side of the arches over the doorway.

In a view published in 1778 the barn which appears in views of 1772, 1774, and 1784 also, was in existence; just beyond the gate which now stands at the end of the road towards Stanstead Church; it had a small lean-to on its end, and a very sharp pitched roof; it was apparently about 25 feet square and 10 feet high at the eaves, and opposite to it stood the elm-tree on which it is said Rumbold was hung. By 1795 the brickwork above the arcade on the gateway tower was gone, and the chimney is shown in the view of that date as larger at the top than at the bottom.

When the house was to have been used for the purposes of the supposed Protestant plot in 1683, it was tenanted by a man of the name of Rumbold, a maltster, who, it was alleged, was to have secreted the conspirators in his house, and afforded them an opportunity of retreat after their purpose had been effected. The method, according to information of Joseph Keeling, a salter, was to waylay the King on his return from Newmarket, and to shoot him and the Duke of York.

Cussans says, "That the Rye house tavern is built in the ancient fore court upon the bank of the Lea." Another observes that "Time has dealt well with the picturesque tavern and its quaint surroundings." Whilst Isaac Walton speaks of it as "An honest ale house, where we shall find a cleanly room, lavender in the windows, twenty ballads stuck about the wall, and a hostess both cleanly, handsome, and civil." The castle was formerly used as a workhouse for the poor of Stanstead, in which parish it is situated; and until about 1805 was still inhabited by some of the old women, who occupied it before the Poor Law Amendment Act rendered it necessary to provide other accommodation for the paupers of the Union to which the parish of Stanstead belongs.

From "Notes on the Rumbold Family by Horace Rumbold" we glean some of the following particulars:—

"William Rumbold was Clerk of the Wardrobe to King Charles I in 1629, and was brother to Henry Rumbold. In 1653 he was the Secretary to the King's council; he was a soldier, and was with his father at the battle of Naseby. His father was taken prisoner from his house in Leicestershire, where the family had been settled at or near Burbage for at least three generations. His brother Henry was a wine merchant at Puerto Sta. Maria, and was brother-in-law to Secretary Thurlow. After the King's restoration, he was consul of Cadiz and Port St. Mary for three years, and in 1663 he

became Gentleman of the Privy Chamber in Extraordinary. He had a younger brother Thomas. Henry married twice, and had a son by his second wife, who in course of time became the grandfather of Sir Thomas Rumbold, whose profile was shown in the European Magazine of 1782, p. 319.

"Richard Rumbold was born about 1622. He was a soldier in Fairfax's army, and served under Cromwell at Dunbar and Worcester; in 1659 he was Lieut. in Col. Parker's Regt. of Horse, and after the Restoration married the widow of a maltster, and carried on that trade at the Rye house near Hoddesdon in Herts. He was an extreme republican, and was called Hannibal by reason of his having but one eye; he was tried in 1685 as one of the guards about the scaffold of Charles I, and was executed on June 26th in that year, and his remains were set up on one of the city gates and in Hertfordshire. His brother William was pardoned by King James II in 1688. This family became related through the marriage of one of its descendants with John Upton, a relative of Anthony Upton before mentioned."

From Mackintosh's "James II," pp. 31, 32, we find by warrants dated October 27th and 28th, 1685, "That the body of Richard Rumbold, who had been convicted and executed at Edinburgh under a Scotch law, was brought up from London. The sheriffs of London were commanded by Royal warrant to set up one of the quarters on one of the gates of the city (Aldgate), and to deliver the remaining three to the sheriff of Hertford, who was directed by another warrant to place them at or near Rumbold's late residence at the Rye House (at Hoddesdon, the Rye, and Bishops Stortford)."

The Rye House was supposed to communicate with Nether Hall by a subterranean passage, as it was a fortified baronial building of the same period, and stood just within the Essex border. One writer says "That both Nether Hall and the Rye House have a history; and great deeds have probably been done in them, for which their names are noted; and it is quite possible that secret means of communication existed between the two buildings." Another says "that the two buildings are three quarters of a mile apart as the crow flies, and any passage must necessarily be tunnelled under the River Stort. It appears from history, and the best obtainable information, that the valley of the Lea and Stort was more subject to floods formerly than it is now, and therefore any work of this kind, though not impossible, was very improbable, as along the whole line it would be a tunnel of water."

This may be taken to be one of the idle traditions always floating about in the neighbourhood of old ruins, repeated by the simple and superstitious to add a glamour to the scenes of the past.

It only remains for me to say that I am indebted to many sources for the information contained in the foregoing pages, and to thank all who have helped me in it, and especially the present proprietor of the Rye House for the facilities he has afforded me in paying several visits to this interesting old ruin.

R. T. Andrews.

HUNSDON CHURCH.

THE derivation of the name Hunsdon seems to be uncertain. "This village," Salmon says, "hath a noble situation upon a rising ground of gravel overlooking the meadows. The 'don' or hill, if not named from some Saxon owner, 'Hones'-don, may possibly be derived from Hounds-don, the hill where the kennel was kept."

Sir Henry Chauncy says that "It was doubtless part of the Manor of Stanstead in the time of the Conqueror, since there is much more land mentioned in Stanstead by Domesdei Book than is now in that vill." The following is the only entry in Domesday Book touching Hunsdon:—"Alwyne de Godtone held eleven hides and half a virgate in the Manor of Stanstead, and of these Ralph Talgebosch gave to Ranulph with his niece in marriage ten hides, and he laid the eleventh hide in Honesdon, as is before declared in the Manor of Stanstead."

There are records to show that there was a church here in 1291, and there was also a rectory as well. In that year an inquisition was made by order of Pope Gregory IV, and it was found that the value of the rectory was 12 marcs per annum, and that the tithes were worth 24 shillings. In the survey made in the twenty-sixth year of Henry VIII it was rated in the King's books at the annual value of £12.

In 1650 the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the state of the ecclesiastical benefices found that the house, glebe, and tithes were worth £75 per annum. Thirty years ago it was worth £280 with house.

Roger de Waveney, in the time of William II or Henry I, gave this church and that of Stanstead Abbotts to the Priory of Merton in Surrey, in whose gift it remained till the Dissolution, when it came to the Crown. Queen Elizabeth, in the first year of her reign, bestowed it upon her kinsman Sir Henry Cary, since which time it has remained attached to the Manor of Hunsdon.

The church stands about half a mile from the village. "Its name," writes the Rev. Spencer Nairne, "had been for years forgotten and lost. I ascertained that it is not to be found in any place in England where such information is commonly recorded, and I have been informed that the Pope of Rome is probably the

only man who could tell it. But I learned it to a tolerable degree of certainty in the summer of 1878. Mrs. Hankey, of Balcombe Place, was one day looking over some deeds relating to the Manor of Lewes in Sussex when the name 'Hunsdon' caught her eye. The deed recorded, among other gifts made to churches in different parts of England, the presentation of a bell to the church of 'St. Dunstan's, Hunsdon.' Mrs. Hankey could not point out the passage, as there were many volumes of these documents, as she had not made a note of the entry, and I have never had an opportunity of searching for the entry myself. To make sure the word Mrs. Hankey saw was really Hunsdon, I have ascertained that the church of Hunston, Sussex, is dedicated to St. Leodegar, that of Hunston in Suffolk to St. Michael, that of Hunstanton, Norfolk (pronounced Hunston), to St. Mary, and that of Hundon, Suffolk, to All Saints. Mrs. Hankey could not say the date of the gift, but it was pre-Reformation. It may be objected that there is no pre-Reformation bell at present in the church. The third bell of the Hunsdon peal, however, is 120 years later than its companions. Now, as this was till 1883 the middle bell of a peal of five, it is to be conjectured that it supplanted an older one of the same note. In confirmation of this, the church of Widford, the adjoining parish to Hunsdon, has a peal of five bells, of which the middle bell is a pre-Reformation bell, and the rest of later dates, and this is the case in at least one other church I could mention. I conclude, therefore, that Hunsdon church is dedicated to St. Dunstan."

Hunsdon church consists of a chancel, a side aisle or chapel on the north side, which now contains the organ and is used as a vestry, a south transept built by Sir John Cary, third Lord Hunsdon, as mortuary chapel, a nave without aisle, and an embattled tower containing a peal of eight bells. The style of the architecture indicates that the present main building was erected about the year 1400. The south transept is Jacobean, and was built 1610–20. Parts of the church, however, are earlier than these dates. The old pitch of roof can be clearly seen above the west arch of nave, and as the stone string course which marks the second storey of the tower was interrupted by it, the string course itself must have belonged to the old tower, and consequently the first two storeys of the tower should be of the same age.

Let us now consider the chancel. The east window, a Perpendicular one, with the exception of the small upper lights, which are of date 1450, is filled with modern stained glass. In the three centre lights are represented the Ascension, and beneath

the Crucifixion of our Lord. The four Evangelists occupy the first and fifth lights. This window is in memory of Felix Calvert, C.B., and N. R. Calvert, M.A., the latter of whom held the living of Hunsdon from 1832 to 1845.

Mr. Gerish says the recess in the north wall is probably an Easter sepulchre, and the inscription is of a later date than the tomb itself. This, however, is open to controversy. It consists of a single Tudor arched recess, the arch splayed and panelled, with Perpendicular tracery, surmounted by three shields bearing coats of arms. The tablet records in Latin that "Francis Poynz, Knight, lies here. He was distinguished by letters, by friends, by favour of his King, and by piety." The date is 1528. Records in possession of Earl Spencer, whose family name is Poyntz, show that Sir Francis Poynz was Henry VIII's Ambassador to Germany, and explains the clause in his epitaph "distinguished by favour of his King."

In the south wall of chancel there is a piscina, also a plain stone sedilia. The former, and probably the latter as well, were cut back level with the wall (most likely in 1620 during Lord Hunsdon's alterations, when the ceilings to both chancel and nave were put up), and piscina and sedilia were then filled in and plastered over. These were opened out in 1872.

The altar-rails are the original Laudian ones. Archbishop Laud ordered the sacrarium in every church to be railed in, to keep dogs away from the altars.

The chancel had originally an open roof; the timbers are still there, but were found to be much cut about when the plaster ceiling already referred to was put up. In 1872 the architect said they could not be exposed, so the present oak ceiling was erected.

Coming out of the sacrarium the handsome tomb of Judge Forster, dedicated to "the Triune, true, and living God," strikes the eye. "Within an iron railing of somewhat coarse workmanship," Cussans says, "but remarkable ductility, is the full length recumbent figure of a man in judicial robes." The effigy is well executed, with head resting on a cushion and the hands raised in prayer. Above, a tablet tells us in Latin that "Thomas Forster, gentleman, lies here. He was a good man, just and godfearing, provident, pitiful, peaceful, and learned in the laws of England. For about 26 years he practised diligently at the Bar, and then was appointed (by counsel of those most illustrious princes Her Majesty Anna Queen of England and Henry, likewise of brilliant promise) Justice of the King's Bench. He died, to the unspeakable grief of his children, on the 18th day of March in the year of grace 1612."

Anna Queen of England here referred to was the wife of King James I, and Prince Henry was Charles I's elder brother, who predeceased his father.

Above this tomb, and indeed partly hidden by it, is a Perpendicular pattern window, enriched with ancient stained glass, mellow and harmoniously tinted, and dated 1440–50. This with other stained glass, now unfortunately lost, was the gift of Sir John Oldhalle, who held the Manor of Hunsdon and was a great patron of this church. He was also an ardent upholder of the Yorkists, and lost his life fighting for Richard III at the battle of Bosworth. The white rose of York figures prominently in this window, together with the fetterlock, and there are several 'flotes,' the heraldic name for the plasterer's smoothing tool, which latter was the Oldhalle badge and, I believe, crest. The other ancient glass fills the topmost lights of the east window already mentioned, and also the upper lights of a plain window on the north side of the nave, representing six of the twelve Apostles.

When Lord Hunsdon built the south transept he destroyed the upper part of the chancel screen and the rood gallery at the top of it. The part of the screen left stands about 4 feet high; it is carved with foliage and flowers, and is entered by folding doors. The stairs to the rood-loft remain, and an aperture has been made through the wall opposite the upper door of this to allow the sound from the organ to be conveyed to the chancel. The tie beam over the chancel arch, which is close to the wall, has the notch in it which held in the top of the rood. On the left hand, beneath the tie beam on the west side of the chancel arch, is "Ave Maria," painted in letters about 18 inches high; nothing was found on the other side to correspond.

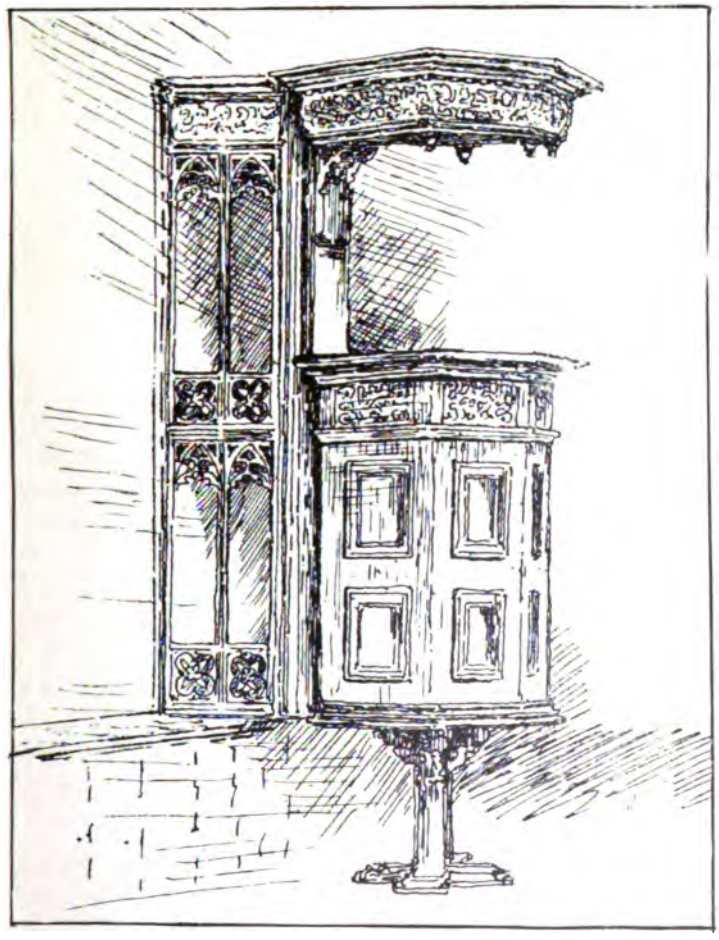
The north transept, or north aisle of chancel, is now entered by a flight of five steps. The floor, however, was originally on the same level as the church, but was raised in order to make a burial vault under it for the Calvert family. The two large marble monuments, Calvert and Chester, now on the north wall, were originally on the north wall of the chancel, and they were removed to their present position in 1872, in order to make the arch between the chancel and the transept. The east window of this is remarkable as being of the Decorated period. The Shelley brass lies on the floor here, and the coloured engraving of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Hunsdon hangs on the wall. Both of these are described later. There is also a good oak table, plain, with turned legs, formerly the communion-table, which is now used as the vestry table.

Coming into the nave we first notice the pulpit. This was new in Lord Hunsdon's day, and originally stood against the north wall in front of the door of the rood-loft stairs. When the church was restored in 1872 the pulpit was placed against the wall, and it was lowered a little, the sounding-board canopy being left unaltered. The quaint appearance it originally possessed was much spoilt by this change. The illustration shows the pulpit as it was before alteration. Lord Hunsdon also reseated the church with a good many square pews; parts of these now stand as panelling against the north wall of the nave; the Gray brass, fully described later, hangs close by this old woodwork.

The alms-box, which stands just within the north door, is as old as the church. A former rector confesses that he caused the hole for the money to be slightly enlarged, and made wide enough to receive modern coins. "The box is very little used," he writes, "and as a piece of antiquity it would have been better left with the very narrow slit adapted for ancient thin money."

In 1830 repairs were made in this church in the destructive spirit which has caused the loss of so much valuable old work. Windows, instead of being repaired, were entirely taken out and replaced, so it is difficult to tell if they are in their original form or not. We may assume the south-west window of the nave is a faithful copy of its predecessor, as it is in all respects similar to the north-west window, which was left untouched. The window on the north side of nave near the pulpit was also entirely renewed, and as its head is an obtuse angle while the others are square-headed, as moreover the tracery has a small rose in the centre filled with modern stained glass, while below the six small horizontal divisions have ancient glass, a suspicion is raised that its shape has been altered. This, however, is not the case, as the original stones of the window lay for some years in the churchyard, and were afterwards removed to the Rectory garden, and among these pieces of stone was found the old head of this north-east window with the obtuse angle and the rose exactly like its new successor.

At the same time (1830) a gallery was built across the west end of the nave, and a partition was placed across the tower arch, shutting out the belfry and west window. The gallery extended beyond the westernmost windows north and south of the nave, and made that end very dark. A south door, therefore, which entered the church opposite the present north door, was destroyed, and a window inserted in its place, an exact copy of the window by its side. The old oak door which hung there stood for years



From a Sketch by Revd. A. NAIRNE.

PULPIT IN HUNSDON CHURCH.

in a carpenter's shop in the village. The window which took the place of this doorway was in 1851 half filled with stained glass by Mr. David Chapman, in memory of his marriage with Miss Phelips, of Briggins Park. About fifteen years later he completed the window by adding the two side lights, and the faces of the two angels in them were likenesses of his two daughters. Very soon after the erection of the gallery a barrel organ was set up in it, and the westernmost tie beam coming in the way, this was cut off on each side close to the wall and removed; the ends are still visible. This barrel organ remained until 1865, when the present organ was built for the church, and at the earnest solicitation of the Rector and some parishioners, the churchwardens consented to its being placed on the floor under the tower arch, and the gallery destroyed. In 1872 the organ was removed to its present position in the north chapel.

The font stands in the centre of the nave at its extreme western end. It has been restored, and in such sort that no one can tell from its appearance that it is not a new font. Charles Rainburd, however, a former church clerk, bears witness to having packed it when it was sent to London to be recut, and says that it is an exact copy of the original design. This is corroborated by the fact that the font is of clunch, while the other contemporary stonework has been executed in Bath stone. The identity of this font with the original is especially interesting, because Queen Elizabeth twice stood at it as sponsor. The following entries are found in the old register book:—

"1576.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cary, the daughter of Sr George Cary, Knight, borne the 24th of March and was baptized the 7th of June, 1576, predict. Our souerayne lady the Quenes ma^t^. The Countess of Warwick, godmother. Earle (?) of Sussex, godfather."

"1584.

Mr. Emanuel Scrowpe, sonne of Mr. Thomas Scrowpe, Esquier, was borne the first daye of August and baptized the xv^th^ daie of the same month. The Quenes Matie beinge godmother. The Erle of Arundell and the Lord Scrowpe being godfathers."

The tower consists of three stages; the lower with a west door and west window above, the second with a clock on the west side and two light square-headed windows on the north and south sides, the third with two light pointed windows on all four sides. It is surmounted by the usual Hertfordshire needle-shaped spire. It was restored in 1883–4, when the five old bells

were rehung; one being cracked was recast, and three small new bells were added, making the present peal to consist of eight bells.

The inscriptions on the first five are as follows:—

(1) "Jesus be our spede, 1630."
(2) "God save the King, 1630." This bell was recast, but the inscription kept.
(3) "The Rev[d] W. Calvert, Rector. J. Bryant, of Hertford, Fecit, 1787."
(4) "Philip Eliot, Rector. Joseph Galton, John Hunsdon, Churchwardens, 1668."
(5) "Anthony Bartlett made mee, 1652."

The weight of the tenor is approximately 18 cwt.

Returning up the nave, we enter by an ascent of two steps the chapel of Sir John Cary, Lord Hunsdon. It is separated from the rest of the church by a handsome carved oak screen. Above the screen is a shield bearing the arms of Cary with twenty quarterings. A horse's head stands on one side and a bull's head on the other, and in the middle, raised, a swan as crest. It is not necessary to blazon all the quarterings. The first, however, is argent, on a bend sable, three roses of the field differenced with a crescent for Cary; and the twelfth, argent, a chevron gules between three bulls' heads couped, for Boleyn, and, in virtue of his connection with Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Arms of England are quartered, surrounded with a bordure.

The tablet at the back tells us that "Here resteth in peace Sir John Cary Knight Baron of Hunsdon, and the Lady Mary Hunsdon his wife. Ye said John Cary was sent to Berwick by the last Queen Elizabeth of famous memory in the year of our Lord 1593, to be Marshall of the Town of Berwick, Captaine of Norham, Lord Warden of the East Marches of England for and anenst Scotland, and so he remained till he returned in England with the most famous King James when he entered into ye possession of ye Crown of England."

The tomb is of marble and alabaster; the recumbent figures are placed under an arched canopy and richly painted in colours. Both Lord and Lady Hunsdon are dressed in state robes of crimson, or rather scarlet, and ermine; the former wears doublet and hose, ruff, and tasselled sword; the latter has kirtle and huswyfe, and wears the comfortable Tudor coiffure. At Lord Hunsdon's feet is a terrier rampant, and at his lady's a swan couchant. There is no date of their death, nor is their age recorded.

It may be interesting to note that this Lord Hunsdon was Queen Elizabeth's first cousin once removed. His father, Sir Henry Cary, was the son of Mary Boleyn, sister to Anne Boleyn, who was the great Queen's mother. The Carys constantly held posts of trust in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I.

Mr. W. Frampton Andrews has contributed his interesting notes on the brasses of Hunsdon Church, of which the following is an abstract:—

On the north wall of the nave is fixed the so-called Death's sign brass in memory of James Gray, who, tradition says, lost his life while following his occupation of huntsman to John, third Baron Hunsdon. This is considered one of the most noteworthy monumental brasses in Hertfordshire. Haines, in his book on brasses, states that only a few similar ones are to be met with in Kent and Surrey, and no other is exactly like this in all its details. The plate containing the figures appears to be of copper, and not of the usual material of which brasses are composed, and owing to its mural position it is in excellent preservation. It measures with the inscription about 20 by 18 inches. The engraving depicts the figure of a man bareheaded, dressed in tight-fitting tunic buttoned down the front, knee breeches, stockings, and low shoes. He has moustache and beard; from his left hand a sword is suspended, and on his right side a hunter's horn, denoting his occupation. With an arrow from his cross-bow he has apparently just struck a deer a short distance ahead, when Death, depicted by a skeleton, approaches, and, thrusting another arrow into the breast of the huntsman with his right hand, guides the first into the side of the animal with his left, thus despatching both victims at the same time. A scroll issuing from Death's mouth bears the enigmatical words "Sic pergo." The inscription at the bottom of the brass is on a separate plate, and reads thus:—

"Beloved of all whilst he had Lyfe
Vnmoened of none when he did die
James Gray interred of his wife
Neer to this Death's Signe Brass doth lie
Yeares thirtie-fyve in good renowne
Parke and housekeper in this towne.
Obiit 12 die Decembris A° Dni 1591
Ætatis Sve 69."

We learn by the register that he was buried in Hunsdon Church the day following:

"the xiii of december 1591."

It is probable that James Gray was well known to the Royal Prince and Princesses who were brought up in the neighbouring mansion, and they would doubtless accompany him—past master of field and woodland lore—in many a hunting and hawking expedition over the wide fields of the royal demesne.

There is a small brass inscription which was formerly fixed to the chancel floor, but which now lies loose on a window-sill of the northern aisle, and which reads as follows: "hic jacet Willm. Gray primogenit henrici Gray, milites, et Anne consortis sue qui obiit vii die Augusti Anno dni. M°V°XVII cuīs aīe p̄picietur deus. Amen." It is possible that this William died young, and was brother to James of the Death's sign brass, but beyond these details there are no records in the register of the family of Gray in the sixteenth century.

The other interesting brass lies in the north chapel, and is in memory of "Margaretta Shelley nup. ux. Johannis Shelley nup. civis et Merceri London qui obiit xxvii° die Mensis Marcii A° dñi M°CCCCLXXXXV° cui. aīe p̄piciet deus."

A female figure is portrayed dressed in a shroud, which was formerly tied in a knot at the head and feet, but the two ends of the brass have disappeared. Her hair hangs down, and parts of her body and limbs are visible. From her mouth proceeds a scroll, which now only comprises one word and one letter, but formerly was inscribed with the sentence "Meus Spiritus laudet Dominum." Mr. Nairne tells us that above her is a representation of the Holy Trinity: God the Father as an aged man seated with a Pope's tiara on His head, God the Son as a crucifix in front of Him, and God the Holy Ghost as the Holy Dove with a nimbus above our Lord's shoulder. This brass is loose, and should be securely fixed, and that of the Holy Trinity is now broken. Shrouded figures are also found on brasses in Baldock, Great Berkhampstead, Digswell, Hitchin, and Sawbridgeworth.

I do not think the story of Hunsdon Church would be complete without some mention of a few of the great personages who have lived in the parish and worshipped here. Margaret Countess of Richmond, mother of King Henry VII, lived at Hunsdon House, and doubtless she attended within these walls. "Henry VIII," we read, "determined to use Hunsdon House for his own purposes. He made it into a Palace Royal—where he was pleased to resort for the preservation of his health; the king also made choice of this seat for the breeding and education of his children in respect of the benefit of the air." Henry VIII's family

consisted of his youthful son, who afterwards came to the throne as Edward VI, and the two Princesses Mary and Elizabeth, who each in turn became Queen of England. In 1537 the Princess Mary and her sister were here, and the former stood godmother to "the child of one Welshe beside Hunsdon," who was christened October 7th of that year. During the short reign of her brother this was one of the Princess Mary's residences, but her royal father having reformed the Church of England she no longer attended its services. Miss Strickland tells us how Bishop Ridley went from his seat of Hadham to pay her a pastoral visit, and having expressed a wish to preach before her, was answered by the remark that "the parish church was open to him if he had a mind to preach in it, but neither she nor any of her household would be present."

Queen Elizabeth came twice to Hunsdon after her accession. Her first visit is commemorated in a painting by Marc Garrard, and a coloured engraving of this, entitled "The Royal Progress of Queen Elizabeth anno regni 14 Mense Augusti," now hangs in the vestry of this church. It represents the Queen in a litter or chair of state, dressed in the well-known pointed bodice and large sleeves, with her hair drawn well away from her forehead, and a jewelled headdress or crown on her head. She is being escorted by her nobles, and Hunsdon House is seen in the background. On both occasions that she visited Hunsdon as Queen it was to stand godmother to her youthful cousins.

Later on Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I, so highly esteemed the salubrity of the air of Hunsdon that she sent thither her son Prince Charles, known in history as Charles I, and placed him under the care of the Lady Elizabeth, wife of Sir Robert Cary. Charles from his infancy had been very sickly, but by the care of his foster-mother, and the genial air of his new southern home, he rapidly gained strength. He, too, then, in early youth worshipped in this church.

I do not read that Royalty has been further connected with Hunsdon. The Carys continued faithfully to serve their sovereigns, till the male line failing, the title of Lord Hunsdon became extinct, two generations later than Sir John Lord Hunsdon of the monument. A modern memorial, however, placed also in the Cary Chapel, shows that the noble traditions of the past still linger in the village, and the high qualities that animated bygone generations are present to-day. By the side of a fine stained glass window is placed a plain mural tablet with the following epitaph:—

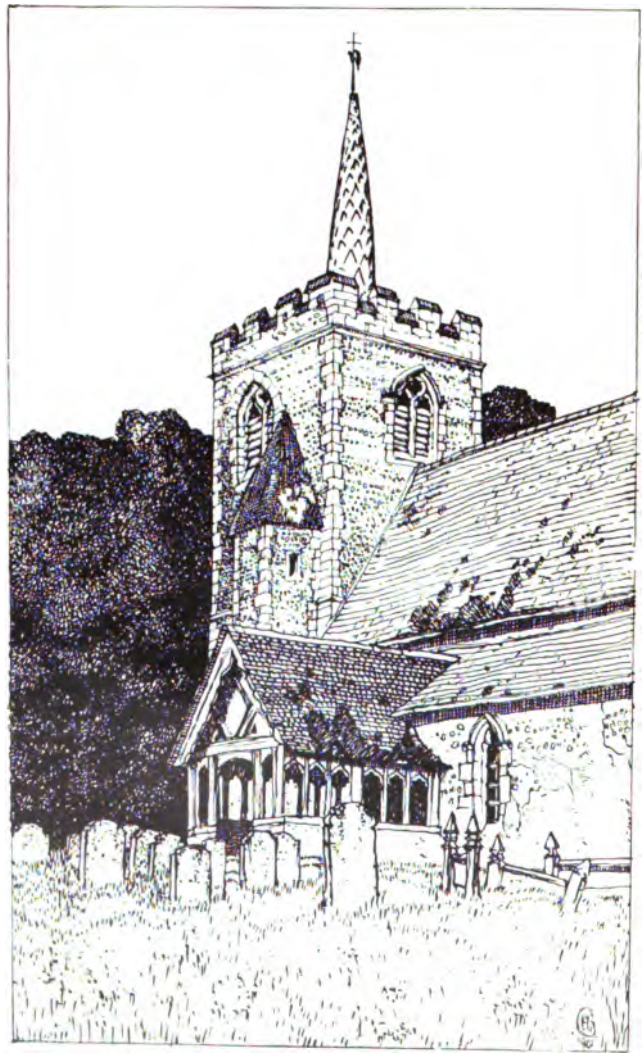
"In memory of Lieutenant Harold Charrington, of the Royal

Navy, aged 26 years. Of H.M.S. Euryalus, Flag Lieutenant to Sir W. N. Hewitt, who in company with Professor Palmer and Captain W. J. Gill, R.E., while engaged in an important and confidential mission connected with the war in Egypt, were all killed by Bedouin Arabs in the Desert of Sinai, Aug. 11, 1882. He was second son of Spencer Charrington, Esq., of Hunsdon House. This tablet is erected by Admiral Sir W. N. Hewitt and the officers of his flag ship Euryalus, in affectionate remembrance of a gallant sailor, and of one who had endeared himself to them all. The remains were interred in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral."

Long may Hunsdon flourish and bring up sons as worthy!

In writing this paper I have drawn facts from the county histories compiled by Salmon, Chauncy, and Cussans. The Rev. G. A. Piper, of Bishop's Stortford, kindly translated the Latin epitaphs, and Mr. W. F. Andrews gave me his notes on the brasses. For the details of the building I am chiefly indebted to the Rev. Spencer Nairne, who, for nineteen years Rector of Hunsdon, has generously placed his accumulated knowledge at my disposal, and has furnished much valuable and hitherto unpublished lore. I have copied whole pages of his notes, and had space permitted I should have been glad to have copied more. Last of all, I have to thank the Rev. A. Nairne, the Rector of Tewin, for the dainty etching of Hunsdon pulpit which accompanies this paper.

ELIZABETH FLORENCE MORRIS.



GILSTON CHURCH.

(From "Highways and Byeways in Hertfordshire," by permission of Messrs. Macmillan & Co.)

GILSTON CHURCH.

THE church of Gilston, which is dedicated to St. Mary, and is known as Little St. Mary's, to distinguish it from Great St. Mary's at Sawbridgeworth, was granted in 1136 by Geoffrey de Mandeville to his newly-founded monastery at Walden. The advowson seems to have remained in the possession of the Abbots of Walden until about the year 1241, when Geoffrey de Luci, Dean of St. Paul's, claimed it: the question was referred to the Chancellor and the Archdeacon of the diocese of London, in which Gilston then was; the arbitrators, being unable to decide to which of the claimants they should give it, settled the matter by awarding it to the see of London, and with two exceptions the living remained in the gift of the Bishops of London till the middle of the nineteenth century, when it passed to the Bishop of Rochester.

At the taxation of Pope Nicolas (1291 *circâ*) the church was valued at £3 6*s*. 8*d*. yearly, and had to pay 2*s*. yearly to the Prior of Latton, in Essex; and at Henry VIII's valuation (1535) it was worth £10 3*s*. yearly. At the Ecclesiastical Visitation of 1552 the Commissioners found at Gilston a silver chalice weighing 12½ ounces, two vestments with albs, one of damask and the other of green silk, a corporas of damask, a cope, and in the steeple three bells and a hand bell. There are now only two bells in the tower. The oldest (diameter 28½ inches) has the inscription, "JESUS . BE . OUR . SPEDE . 1628," and the mark of Robert Oldfield, the founder, a shield impaled by an arrow armed and flighted, dexter a quatrefoil surmounting an R and sinister a fleur-de-lys surmounting an O. The other bell bears the inscription, "NATHANIELL . SPENCER . CHURCHWARDEN . 1663," and Anthony Bartlett's mark, three church bells banded by a rope. A third bell, cast in 1858 by C. and G. Mears, was taken down in 1883.

The church, which consists of chancel, nave of four bays with aisles, west tower and south porch, is in all 86 feet 9 inches long, and presents an Early English appearance: the font, however, which stands under the tower and has round headed arches carved round the outside, appears to be of early twelfth-century work. There seems to be no proper foundations to the church, which

merely rests on the side of the hill: the construction of the walls, which at the sides are 3 feet thick and at the ends 4 feet thick, is best seen from the outside of the north aisle, as the other parts have been plastered over; they are made of rubble mixed with flints. A doorway in the north aisle has been blocked up and can only be seen from the outside; the shafts at the sides have foliated caps, now much worn. The west doorway is plain Early English work and of three orders, the caps of the side shafts being unornamented. It is set in a red brick square tower of later date, which is apparently built on the foundations of an earlier tower and has late thirteenth-century windows set in it, and a spire and battlements have been added.

In the interior the nave pillars and arches, which have not the light appearance common to thirteenth-century work, are probably not of earlier date: it is, however, possible that the pillars were originally Norman work, and were altered to Early English requirements. The chancel has three lancet windows, and an east window of four lights with restored tracery in late thirteenth-century style, which loses in effect owing to the chancel floor having been raised at a later date, and thus causing the altar to obscure the lower part of the window. This raising of the chancel floor, which, as the church is built pointing downhill, may have once been below the level of the nave, has made a piscina on the south of the altar appear too low down. This piscina is Early English in style, double-arched, with a Purbeck marble pillar in the centre supporting it. The mural painting above and at the sides of the east window is modern, by Messrs. Percy Bacon Bros.

The glass in the windows is modern, two windows being by Messrs. James Powell & Sons; there are, however, some remains of heraldic glass. In the east window are two coats of arms:—"Ar., two chevrons sa., a label of five points gu.," and "Or, two chevrons gu." Clutterbuck conjectures them to be those of Grendon, but they seem to me to be more likely Tyrell and Fallesley. In the west window are the arms—"Sa., a chevron erm., between three maidens' heads couped at the shoulders ar. with hair dishevelled, or"; and the legend "Orate p[ro anima W]illi Estfeld militis." Sir William Estfeld (or Eastfield), whose arms they are, was a mercer and alderman of London, twice Lord Mayor, and a Knight of the Bath: by his will, proved in the Husting Court of London, February 24th, 1444, he left a sum of money to Gilston Church.

In the floor of the north aisle lie two stone coffin lids, each with a floriated cross on it; nothing is now legible on them, but in

Clutterbuck's time the words "Alys de Ros" were legible on one of them: she would be Alice, wife of Sir John de Roos, and daughter and heiress of Robert de Asheldham; she died in 1375 possessed of the manor of Overhall in Gilston, which had been left to her by her husband.

In the chancel are buried various members of the Gore family. They were descended from John Gore, Alderman of London, to whose son, Gerard Gore, merchant-taylor and alderman, were confirmed in 1587 the arms, "Gu. a fesse between three cross-crosslets fitchée or," which are to be seen on the Gore tombstones in this church. Gerard Gore's fourth son, Sir John Gore, also a merchant taylor, was Lord Mayor in 1624–5, and was knighted in 1626. He bought New Place in Gilston in 1633 or 1634, and, dying "of the contagion" in 1636, left by will a rent-charge on the manor of Gifford's in Gilston of £5 12*s*. yearly, £3 of which was to go to the Rector for catechizing the school-children, and £2 12*s*. to be spent in giving bread to the poor of the parish every Sunday. His eldest son, Sir John Gore, Knt., of New Place, was three times married: his second wife, Dorothy, daughter of Robert Kempe, Esq., of Wycomb, whom he married in 1632, died in 1645, and was buried in the chancel at Gilston; on her tombstone are the arms of Gore impaling Kempe. By his third wife, Bridget, widow of Richard Legh, and daughter of Sir Edward Harington, Bart., of Ridlington, in Rutlandshire, he had only a daughter, Bridget, who was born in 1654 and died in 1657, and was buried in the chancel, having on her tombstone the arms of Gore impaling Harington. A monument with a very touching inscription to her memory was put up on the south wall of the chancel by her mother, who at the same time gave £60 to the parish to pay a school dame for teaching the poor children. Lady Gore survived her husband, and afterwards married Sir Thomas Tyrrel, of Castlethorpe.

Sir John Gore died in 1659, and was buried in the chancel, though no entry of his burial occurs in the parish register. A monument to him was erected on the north wall of the chancel by his son, William Gore, of Tewing, the Latin inscription on which was composed by Simon Patrick (afterwards the well-known bishop), with whom William Gore had been at Queen's College, Cambridge, and was, writes a contemporary, "a great intimate." "Sir John Gore," says the same writer, "much valued Dr. Patrick when a young man, foreseeing the eminence to which he would sometime arrive, and that he lost no return of respect to him, see an inscription on the monument of Sir John Gore at Gilston, composed by Dr. Patrick, who never knew the art of flattery."

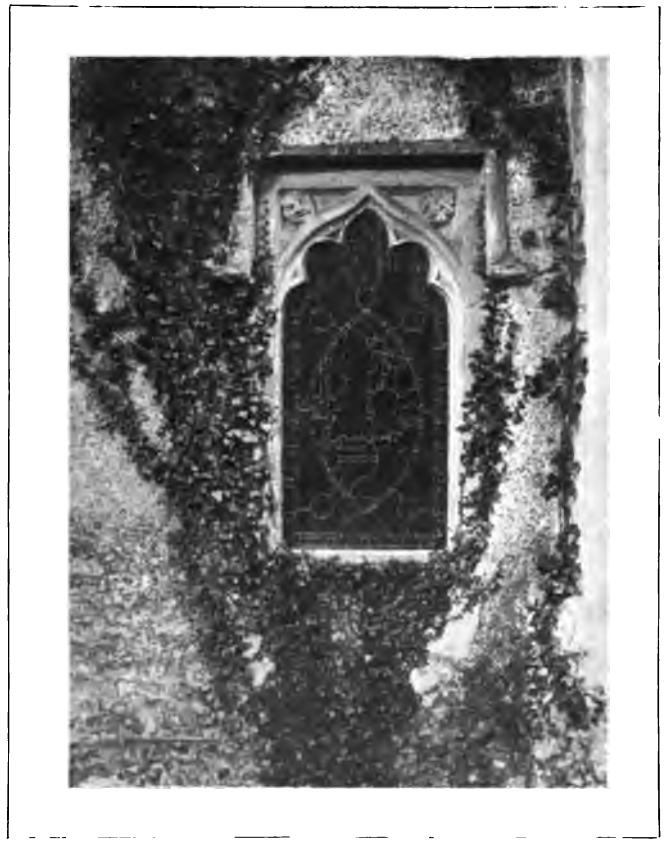
Humphrey Gore, eldest surviving son of Sir John, succeeded his father, and was knighted in July, 1660. He also was three times married: first in 1657 to Persis English, who died in 1665, and secondly to Elizabeth Woodward, "underhousekeeper at Court," who died in 1675; they were both buried in the chancel: his third wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Brockett Spencer, of Offley, survived him, and their only issue, Elizabeth Gore, became eventually heiress of Offley. Sir Humphrey Gore died in 1699, aged 75, and was buried beside his first wife; two daughters of his, who died in childhood, also lie buried in the chancel.

Sir Humphrey's son, Captain Henry Gore, sold New Place in 1701 to Colonel John Plumer, of Blakesware, whose grandson, William Plumer, M.P., on his death in 1822, without issue, left it to his widow, who married twice again, and on her death in 1831 left it to her third husband, Robert Plumer Ward. The latter died in 1846, and New Place (now Gilston Park) was sold by his son, Sir Henry George Ward, K.C.M.G., to John Hodgson, Esq., under whose auspices the church was restored in 1852, and into whose possession the advowson afterwards came.

The work of restoration was entrusted to Mr. Hardwick. The south aisle was rebuilt, and a large slab, found in the flooring there, and conjectured by the Rector, the Rev. George Moody, to be the ancient altar slab, was found to fit the sill of the east window exactly, and was restored to its former use, but two feet were sawn off one end as it was too long for modern requirements. Under the tower were found remains of Early English oaken woodwork, forming arches with cusped heads supported by ringed pillars: these now form part of the chancel screen. It would seem from marks on the mouldings of the half-pillars at the east end of the nave that the former chancel screen was further to the west than the present one.

In the eastern part of the churchyard is the tomb of Sir Humphrey Gore's eldest son, John Gore, who died in 1691, ten days after his marriage to Sarah, daughter of Sir John Robinson, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, and also of a daughter, Mary, who died of smallpox in 1697, three weeks after her marriage to Joseph Cramphorne, of Sawbridgeworth. Beyond is the tomb of the Turvin family, who were the owners of Terlings, a freehold in the parish, from 1683 to 1847. In the south-western part of the churchyard lie buried the Rev. Robert Gibson and his wife; he was rector from 1747 to 1775, and was son of Edmund Gibson, Bishop of London.

C. E. Johnston.



From a Photograph by Mr. E. E. SQUIRES.

LOW-SIDE WINDOW IN NORTH-WEST CORNER OF CHANCEL, ASPENDEN CHURCH.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ASPENDEN.

It is very probable that a part of this church is at least as old as the Domesday Survey, in 1086. The entry referring to this manor mentions a priest and "a King's Thane," by name Aldred, both of whom imply a church, for it appertained to the dignity of a thane that he should have a church on his estate (Laws of King Athelstan). Moreover, in the north wall of the chancel there is an original Saxon window, which had been blocked up, and was found in the wall at the restoration of the church in 1873.

It is probable, then, that in 1086 there was a small Saxon church here, consisting of a nave and chancel only, with small round-headed windows all round the church, which were, of course, unglazed. Of this church only the north wall remains.

As there is no reason to suppose that the church of 1086 was newly built, we might safely say that it is *probable* that at that date it was from fifty to one hundred years old; that is to say, that it was built about the year 1000; but inasmuch as the strong expectation which prevailed just before that year that it would be the *last* year of the world had greatly discouraged the erection of churches, or any other buildings, during the preceding years, it is *not improbable* that the original church was built as early as 950.

The first change in the original building was made in the twelfth century, when the chancel was slightly lengthened. At the same time a triple lancet window was inserted in its east wall, and a single lancet in each of the contiguous walls, north and south. These windows were both walled up; when, it is not known. That on the north side was opened in 1873; the other about thirty years before.

No other known change was made until 1475, when, according to a very ancient parish document, Sir Ralph Jocelyn, the squire of the parish, took off the roof of the nave and pulled down the south wall, replacing it by the present arcade, and adding the aisle. For the original roof he substituted the present queen-post roof of heart of oak. It is probable that it was at this time that the chancel arch was pulled down and not replaced.

Of the tower, we can only say that it was probably built in the latter part of the fourteenth century, or at the beginning of the fifteenth.

About the year 1500 Sir Robert Clifford, squire of the parish (through his marriage with Lady Jocelyn, widow of Sir Ralph aforesaid), built the south porch, which in two places bears his arms. He also probably inserted the present east window, in place of the triple lancet window mentioned above.

The latest part of the building is the private chapel, which probably replaced an older chapel of which there is no record. On the north wall under a shield there is the date 1622. In the same wall the arcade, being in the Renaissance style of the seventeenth century, agrees with this date. In the pier at the north-west corner of this chapel there is the blocked-up arch of the entrance to a rood-screen.

The colouring of the chancel ceiling (which is of the wagon-vault form) was copied in 1873 from a similar ceiling in Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge, designed by Pugin. The panels are of a chestnut brown, the face of the ribs gilt, and their sides vermilion.

In the north wall of the sanctuary there is an altar-tomb, or Easter sepulchre, the date of which is probably (about) 1400, or somewhat later. Further west in the same wall is a low-side window of Barnac stone. It was walled up until 1873. In the jamb of the next window of the same wall is a niche of very good design. The canopy was chiselled off to allow of its being walled up. It was opened in 1873. The present tracery of this window is new. It was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield in 1873 from the little that remained in the arch or head of the window. There is another small niche in the south wall of the aisle. This was opened at the same time. There is also a small niche in the *outer* face of the same wall.

A sepulchral brass, formerly in the floor of the nave (and consequently much injured by traffic), was in 1873 set in a tablet and let into the north wall. It consists of the figures of a gentleman and lady in the dress of the period. It once bore the following inscription, only a part of which now remains: "Thomæ Goodrich et Aliciæ uxoris ejus qui quidem . . . obiit 15 die mensis Julii 1500 quorum . . ."

In the south-east corner of the private chapel stands a canopied altar-tomb of Bethersden marble. It is in memory of Sir Robert and Lady Clifford, whose effigies, in a kneeling position, are let into the back wall of the tomb. They are of coloured enamelled

metal, and are said to be good and early specimens of the kind. This Sir Robert Clifford was deeply implicated in the Perkin Warbeck Conspiracy (1496), which was broken up through his evidence given for a bribe of £500. The tomb bears the following inscription: "Syr Robt. Clyfford late knyght for the body to ye moist excellent Prince Kyng Henry ye VII. and Maister of hys Ordynaunce also . . . . Dame Elysabeth his wyf & late wyf to Sr. Rauffe Josselyn, knyght, whiche Syr Robt. Clyfford was the thyrde son of Thomas late Lord Clifford & the seid Syr Robt. decessed the xv day of March in the xxiii. yer of the Reigne of Kyng Henry ye VII. (1508) & the seid Dame Elisabeth decessed the . . . day of . . . in . . . MCCCCC . . ."

On the edge of the slab of the tomb are these words: "Credo quod Redemptor meus vivit et in novissimo die de terrâ surrecturus sum et in carne meâ videbo Deum Salvatorem meum. Tedet animam meam vitæ meæ." From Sir Robert's mouth once proceeded a scroll, which has now perished. It bore these words: "Benedicta et Sancta Trinitas." From the lady's mouth a like scroll proceeds, which still remains, bearing the words: "Misere (?) nobis peccatoribus."

On the north wall of the aisle is a large tablet, on which are placed two copper busts, one of Sir Ralph Freman, the other of William Freman, his brother. Sir Ralph was Lord Mayor of London. He wears the Collar of S.S. (of the Order of the Holy Ghost) in right of his office as Lord Mayor. The two busts were originally in the church of St. Michael, Cornhill. They were saved when that church was burnt down in the Fire of London, and were brought thence and placed on this tablet in 1702.

The font is probably of the fourteenth or fifteenth century. Before 1873 it stood behind the westernmost pew of the south side of the nave. One side of it had been sawn off to allow the pew to be widened. It was removed to its present position in 1873, and a new side attached to it.

An ancient alms-box stands near the south door. It has two locks, as ordered in a mandate of Henry II (1166), but this box is probably of the reign of Edward VI or Queen Elizabeth.

On the outer face of the west wall of the tower there is 'a Bench Mark' (a 'Broad Arrow') of the Ordnance Survey of 1867. Underneath it is a tablet, on which it is stated that "the approximate altitude in feet" (of the said 'Bench Mark') "above the mean level of the sea at Liverpool" is 339·496 (i.e. nearly 339½) feet.

A. P. Sanderson.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW, LAYSTON.

The Church of Layston was a part of the estate granted by Hugh Triket about the year 1100 to the Prior and Convent of Holy Trinity, Aldgate. In the ecclesiastical taxation made in 1291 the temporalities in Lefstancherche, consisting of lands and a mill belonging to the Prior and Convent of Holy Trinity, were set down at £19 10*s*. 7½*d*., and lands belonging to the Prior of Blakemore at 20*s*. per annum.

In 1534, at the survey made on the dissolution of the monasteries, the vicarage was valued at £14 6*s*. 3*d*. per annum, and it was granted by Henry VIII to Sir T. Audley, Knight, whose sole surviving daughter and heiress, Margaret, married Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, whose son, Thomas, Lord Howard de Walden, sold the manor of Corney, together with the advowson of Layston, to John Crouch, citizen of London, since which time the advowson has remained with the owner of the manor of Corney (though at the present time others besides the owner of Corneybury are interested in the advowson).

The church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and consists of chancel, nave, tower, and south porch. The tower is of three storeys, surmounted by a battlement and Hertfordshire spike. The belfry stairway at the south-east corner and two lower storeys are apparently of earlier date than the nave, but owing to the patching the tower has received it is difficult to say with certainty. There are two good gargoyles on the north and south sides, the large flat stone facing the tower entrance is probably the one described by Salmon as being then at the south entrance and having part of cross fleury upon a serpent, with the upper part of the figure worn off.

There is a dado of flint and stone panels round the base of the tower. On the south side of the west doorway is a holy water stoup (as at Thorley); this is an unusual position, and suggests that it may have been the principal entrance to the church. The belfry contains five bells; in 1552 Edward VI's commissioners found four in the steeple; these were recast in 1633, probably into the five mentioned by Chauncy; the tenor has been recast since his time, and is dated 1776. The founder of the first four bells is unknown, and the lettering on them is said to be unique; one bell only is now in ringing order, the fittings of the others being in a very bad condition.

The nave, which dates from about 1350, is very lofty for a village church, and is lighted on the south side by three windows, the westernmost being an elegant one of 2-lights, the other two of 3-lights. The windows on the north are similar in design, except that the stone tracery has been removed from the two 3-light windows and wooden carpenter's gothic substituted; in the north-west corner a bad crack has made its appearance, and on each side of the chancel arch is another ominous fissure. The roof, formerly covered with lead, is now slated and in a very bad state. The north door has been long blocked up, but traces of the exterior stonework can still be seen. The nave is about 28 feet wide and (with the tower) 72 feet long.

The chancel arch, which dates from about 1300, has had its pilaster and the stonework behind it cut away, on the north side, at a point about 4 feet from the ground for a height of about 8 feet, and subsequently a wooden pilaster substituted; about a foot above the capital of this arch on the same side is an iron ring which may have been used for the Lenten veil; the south side of this arch deviates from the perpendicular southwards. There are the remains of a plain string course beneath the two 3-light windows on the south side. Behind the pulpit is the entrance to the rood-loft staircase; the steps have nearly disappeared, and the upper doorway opening has been blocked up; a small window lights the staircase from the east. Over the blocked-up north door are the Royal Arms of George I.

No ancient monuments are now visible, except the curious stone in the north-west corner of the nave with two matrices upon it, a full description of which appeared in the *Hertfordshire Mercury* of June 7th, 1902. Salmon states that many old stones here were robbed of their inscriptions at the time of the Reforming Rebellion (Civil War); of the modern memorials those of Crouch in the chancel and Slatholme in the nave are the most interesting.

The font is octagonal, a plain base supporting the shaft, which is ornamented with two tiers of recessed panels, sixteen in each tier. No trace of ornamentation appears in the lower series of panels, but in nine of the upper are remains of shields, each bearing an emblem of the Passion; one bearing the Crown of Thorns and another the three nails are the best preserved. This shaft supports a bowl ornamented with eight large open quatrefoils; its date is probably about 1450.

The south porch, which is rapidly falling into ruin, retains its original roof timbers, but the masonry has received similar treatment to that of the slype at St. Albans Abbey, the Georgian red brick

walls being ornamented with remains of the fifteenth century work. There is an elegant decorated niche over the centre of the porch entrance, possibly intended for the figure of St. Bartholomew; in the west spandrel of the arch is the Tudor Rose, and in the head of the east window some unusual ornamentation. The entrance to the nave is by a plain pointed arch; the tiles or lead with which the porch was roofed have disappeared, and its only protection from the weather is a thin boarding, which serves to direct the rain on to the walls.

The chancel, which is about 34 feet long and 18 feet wide, dates from not later than 1240. In the north wall are two Early English lancet windows, at present blocked up; in the east, three, which present a most elegant appearance when viewed from the tower; and in the south wall two lancets, a priest's door, and a late decorated window at the south-west corner; the position of this window and the lowness of its sill from the ground lead to the supposition that it may have fulfilled at least some of the purposes of a low-side window. The colouring on the splays of the east windows is recent, but doubtless follows the lines of previous colour-work; the centre window, which is a little higher than the others, has a floriated ornament on either side at the head; this appears to be original; the grotesque head, forming a bracket in the centre of the south wall, retains its original red colouring. Apparently this bracket supported the Sanctus bell, as there is a hole nearly an inch in diameter sloping upwards from near the right ear of the grotesque head to the centre of the bracket above it; the lower edge of the hole has been much worn away by the action of a small rope.

At the east end of the south wall is a shoulder-headed recess, which may have been a piscina; the opening only covers about half its width, as it extends westward in the thickness of the wall for over a foot and contains part of a shelf. In the east wall, north of the altar, is a similar shoulder-headed recess; from this unusual position for a recess it is evident that it was used for some special purpose, and Mr. Anderson, to whom I am indebted for the suggestion, considers it may have been used for the chrism; the exterior stonework of the aperture does not give the appearance of ancient work.

The Rev. Alexander Strange, who was instituted to this vicarage on the 16th April, 1604, and died in 1650, kept his position as vicar here under James I, Charles I, and the Commonwealth, a rather unusual experience. He collected the sum of £418 13*s*. 8*d*., and erected the chapel of St. Peter, Buntingford, between 1614 and 1626, at a cost of £418 10*s*. 1*d*., placing the altar in the south transept,

although the building is east and west. He appears to have been a very broad-minded man, for in the early part of the reign of Charles I he recast the bells and gave an acre of land in Layston to the vicar for service and sermon on the Monday after the feast of St. Michael; then, in 1642, 8½ acres in Great Hormead and Layston to the repairs of the chapel. He is represented on his brass as preaching in the chapel in a loose gown to a congregation of men wearing hats and women with Mary Stuart caps; the brass also informs us that he was of small bodily strength, but eminently great in spirit.

The other ecclesiastical edifice connected with the parish, the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, Alswick, which stood on the south side of Alswick Hall, was returned as decayed on the Dissolution Survey in 1534, and Edward VI's commissioners reported under the head of things done by men dead:—"Item Sir Henry Parkar layt of Pellam Knight in the said county of Herts haithe Clearlie desolved and puld down the chappell of Allswike in the said Shiar and haithe sold the Belles lead Tymbre and Stone to Willyam hammonde and Henry Grave of Buntingford in the said Countye for the sum of xl^{li} and the said Sr Henrye Durynge his Lyff did hold the Chappell yard of Alswike aforsaid as parcell of his inheritaunce Sainge he boughte the said Chappell wyth thapptenñc of the Kinges maiestie. Allso the said S^{r} henry haith in his handes mor of the Gooddes of the said chappell and ij challisses of Sylluer the verrie contentes therof we knowe not but estimate to the value of vj^{li}."

The Church of Layston appears to have been well supplied with the things necessary for use in the services, for the commissioners of Edward VI found "a challeice of Sylver and gylt and a sylver challeice, a cope of blewe veluet, a Cope of whyte satten of brudges [Bruges], a vestment of crymsone veluet with an alb therū belongynge and iiij bells in the steple." Also under the head of "Goodes solde by common assentes of the inhabitauntes of the parrishes in the countie aforsaid" is this entry: "Itm the parrysshioners of Layston say that thei haue . . . . Belles gooddes plait Juells" This was unlike Kelshall, where the commissioners reported that the "Churchwardens of Kelshull say that abowte vj yearres past thier was a challise embesyllede owte of the church aforesaid and thei say thei suspect Mr. Todde who was then parsone their and now chapplyne to the kinges Maiestie and one Robbarte ffordhowss Then clarke their the vallue therof we the said Commyssioners know not."

H. P. Pollard.

DATCHWORTH CHURCH.

Passing round the exterior of the church, we notice that it is situated at a height of 404 feet, and is within the confines of a moat which originally ran close round the east end of the building, and being in the form of a Greek Θ enclosed in its other half the original Bury or Manor House. Just outside the original moat, and on a portion of the present churchyard, stood an old beershop known as "The Tilbury," which was famous for its timber chimney, and at which tithe and vestry feasts were held. About forty years ago the license was transferred to "The Three Horse Shoes," in the village, which is still locally known by the name of "The Tilbury," in memory of its more ancient predecessor. The inn stood on parish property, and the rent was paid to the overseers. Mr. Abel Smith bought the house after the license was transferred, and on his building the new church cottage the ground was thrown into the churchyard. It is interesting to note that men came with nets from Hertford to catch perch, which were very plentiful in the moat.

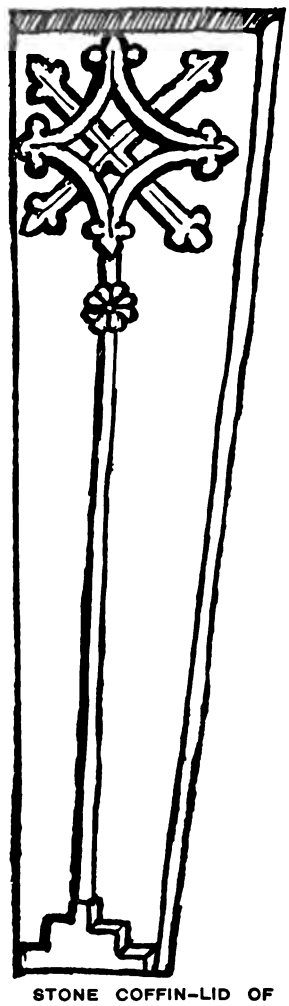
The church itself is built of rubble; the stones were hand-picked off the adjacent land, and the walls, which are very thick, were built with little foundation by the people of the place. Passing round the church, we note the tower with three storeys, and the lofty spire. The west window and door are of the Decorated style; the latter, which was filled in in 1875 to strengthen the tower, is somewhat spoilt by the attentions of the villagers, who since 1659 have carved their unimportant initials on its stones. Before we enter, note the weathercock. Allowing for some degree of error, the church points clearly north of east. You will recollect that it was the custom to orient churches in England by the sunrise on the day of the Patron Saint. Examining the ground, there is no special reason for the present direction of the church, which is certainly identical in direction with the earliest form of church on this site. Moreover, the Lord of the Manor was at the Conquest the Abbot of Westminster, an ecclesiastical person. Taking these matters into consideration, I think that in this instance the custom was definitely adhered to; in this case, then, it is clear that the Patron's Day fell in the summer-time, and that at some time the dedication of the church was altered. It was the custom at the time of the Reformation to transfer to All Saints those churches

which were dedicated to Saints commonly called Black-letter Saints, and especially was this the case with those dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, who previously had been a Red-letter Saint, but who at that time was relegated to the number of those whose days were not kept by a Special Epistle and Gospel. Add to this that there is a local tradition that the church is St. Mary's Church and not All Saints, and it is a fair inference that the church was originally dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, and at the Reformation the dedication was changed to All Saints in accordance with the prevailing custom.

Passing now to the interior, note the Norman doorway on the south, which at the time of the great restoration was left *in situ*, though the ancient pillars were replaced by Mansfield marble. The doorway was carefully restored by Mr. Lawrance in 1875. Inside, the fabric is in its main features Decorated, with some very bad windows, which are troublesome, as the tracery of almost all is different. However, it is clear that originally the church was very much smaller, and consisted only of the present nave, the interior dimensions being even smaller still, as the north wall was as thick as the present south wall. The chancel, the tower, and the aisle are later additions. The only remains of the original church are the south wall and portions of the north-east and north-west corners of the nave. Then came the great restoration in 1340 to 1350, when the church was practically rebuilt in the Decorated style. The tower, chancel, and aisle were then added, and then probably four bells placed in the belfry. Since that time repairs have from time to time been made, and general havoc made of the structure. The tower was probably heightened after the Revolution, when the bells were either replaced or recast, as the date of them is 1673.

The last restoration took place in 1875, when the aisle was placed under its own roof, the huge oak principals were cut out, the gallery removed, and the tower strengthened, and as to its highest storey rebuilt, together with the spire. Portions of the old windows and other stones were found in the walls, and some of these have been inserted at the east of the aisle. At that time the marble pillars were rediscovered—they had been whitewashed by some genius. There was, too, once a door at the west of the aisle, but tradition has it that it was built up by a Rector who objected to his parishioners slipping out to seek some liquid refreshment from the adjoining inn when the sermon was more than usually dry. In 1876 the north wall of the nave, through the added strain of the roof, began to give, and had to be strengthened by an extra

buttress and an oak beam. The font—or as it is called here more correctly, the fount—is thirteenth century. In the south wall is an ancient tomb with a cross fleury of uncommon design; its date is given by the authority on such matters as 1350 to 1360, and his view strengthens my own that it is the tomb of the man who carried through the great restoration. That being so, I believe it is that of Walter Maunsell, rector in 1349, one of the few rectors who died here at that period. The screen is quite modern, but is interesting, as in design, carving, materials, and workmanship it is the work of the sons of Mr. Lawrance, whom it commemorates. There was no rood-screen in this church. The windows are modern and poor; the east window comes from Watton, who, on wishing to put a worse one in their own church, kindly offered this one to Datchworth because they had no further use for it.



STONE COFFIN-LID OF FOUNDER'S TOMB.

In the vestry is a fine oak chest of unusual shape and size. It is suggested that it was a vestment chest; it has no date, and until lately was painted a decent and comely white by someone who has not recorded his name, and so an unappreciative posterity cannot give him his due reward! The registers date from 1570; the chalice is sixteenth century; the original vestments were red and blue, red for festivals and blue for burials. The chair in the sanctuary is a good specimen of early seventeenth-century work. The present chasuble is modern, but a good piece of embroidery from the workshop of the Sisters of the Church. There is one small brass on the tomb of the Rev. Wm. Payne, rector in 1720. Mr. Hawtaine was something of a pluralist, and, having been presented to this living, he induced the Earl of Essex, the patron, to present him with the advowson. Later on he saw his way to

another investment, and entering into negotiations with Clare Hall, Cambridge, sold the advowson for £900. The histories of Hertfordshire are wrong in stating that it was sold to Mr. William Greaves; this gentleman was only the agent of the College, as is clearly proved by the chronicles of Clare College, Cambridge, which I have seen. Their right of presentation has not often been exercised, as the usual tenure has of late been thirty years.

Adverting to one or two points of interest, the Village Constable (Mr. B. Hornett) still lives in the village, and the handcuffs and staff of office are on view in the vestry. As you are going to Welwyn, and will doubtless hear something of Dr. Young and his book, it may be noted that there is a strong local tradition—traceable to at least the beginning of the last century—that he wrote "Night Thoughts" under the shade of two fine old yew-trees in the garden of Datchworth Rectory.

A. Amos.

KNEBWORTH CHURCH.

THIS church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Thomas à Becket, is situated in the Park within a short distance of Knebworth House.

The earliest period of architecture represented in the fabric is the Norman, the nave walls probably and the chancel arch, with its recessed shaft and cushioned cap on the west side, being all that remain of this style. Cussans surmised that the western arch might be Norman of a late period, but it seems to be clearly Early English. Of course, a semicircular Norman arch may have been cut away and a pointed one inserted, but there is no positive evidence of this. The west doorway and tower are Perpendicular, and on the shield in the north spandril of this doorway are the arms of Hotoft (Gules sable three pikes' heads, daurient, erased argent). We may assume, therefore, that John Hotoft, who was Treasurer to Henry VI, charged himself with extensive repairs to, if not with the actual rebuilding of, this portion of the fabric. Salmon says he built the church, an obvious inaccuracy, his authority being an inscription in the chancel window, which read:—

"Officium pietatis majoribus, Speculum Virtutis viventibus, Exemplar Benedictionis posteris posuit 1408. Nisi Dominus aedificaverit Domum, frustra laborat," and may be translated:—

"He left in 1408—
To his ancestors, the service of his loyalty.
To his fellows, a mirror of worth.
To his successors, a model of blessing (or blessed life).
Unless the Lord build the house, the labour is in vain."

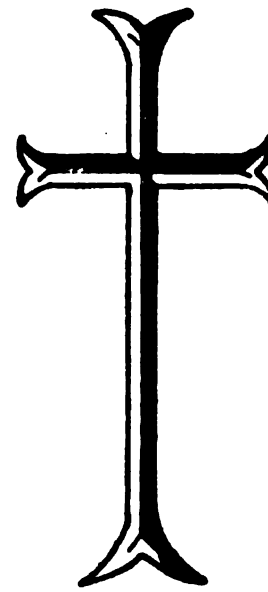
Entering the church by the north porch, a fair example of the Decorated period, you will notice certain niches therein, the use of which it is difficult to explain.

The font is decidedly poor, and may be termed Early Perpendicular. It probably suffered from the 'restoration' of the past century, when under the pretext of neatness the carving on many of our fonts which had become time-worn was ruthlessly chiselled off.

Passing up the nave, we note the very fine carved oak pulpit, bearing the date 1567. It is the only one in the county with pictorially carved panels. The panels, though not in chronological

order, represent "The Annunciation," "The Circumcision,"[1] "The Wise Men," "The Nativity," "The Ascension." If these panels are carefully examined it will be seen that they are not part of the original design, but have been attached to it by screws. It is possible that they were purchased by Bulwer Lytton when on the Continent. The carving is undoubtedly of Flemish design, but the date is probably rather later than that of the pulpit.

Opposite the pulpit is the Lytton family pew, containing some good carved oak panels. It is a survival of the old high family pews, examples of which we have seen this year at Aspenden, Hunsdon, and Wyddial. On the north chancel pier, about the level of the top of the pew, are three incised crosses (see illustration), differing in size, but all carefully cut. These *may* be Consecration crosses, and appear from their workmanship to be considerably later than the arch and pier. The Latin form of cross is used, instead of the more usual Greek form.



ONE OF THREE CROSSES INCISED ON NORTH PIER OF CHANCEL ARCH.
(Actual size.)

On the west splay of the window in this pew is an ancient five-line inscription scratched on the stone. It has been partly erased, and may be attributed to John de Hull (born 1395, instituted 1432), from the reference to his birthplace upon the river Humber. Cussans does not venture to supply the missing lines, or to suggest its meaning. It was probably little more than a record of his institution.

On this same side of the chancel arch we see the built-up doorway which led to the rood-loft, and also the exit door above. It is evident that the rood-loft must have been on the west side of the chancel arch and not under it, owing to the lowness of the latter. It is difficult to judge whether the stairs are in the thickness of the existing wall, which is apparently hardly of sufficient width for them, or whether there was an external stair

[1] A print of this may be had on application to the Hon. Secretary.

such as once existed at Aldenham, and still exists at Layston, Cottered, and Broxbourne. The east nave window has been kept low to permit of the stair passing over it, and the one on the other side of the nave corresponds. You will notice the glazed opening or squint cut through the chancel wall between the Lytton pew and the nave, giving those sitting therein a view of the chapel, but this seems to be of comparatively recent date, and was probably cut from mere sentimental reasons to give the family a view of their ancestors' monuments.

The chancel contains on the south wall a good example of a single piscina of Decorated character with ogee head and cusps, and has a credence shelf.

In the north wall is a low arched recess with mouldings of Perpendicular type. If a founder or benefactor's tomb, it is singularly small; in any case, it served as a suitable recess for the Easter sepulchre.

On the floor beneath the arch which leads into the lady chapel are six brass slips, which are all that remain of a fine altar-tomb (similar to those in existence at Broxbourne and Standon), bearing the brasses of a knight in armour and his lady, and having the slips inlaid round the top. The tomb is supposed to have disappeared to make room for one of the marble monuments in the chapel. It is said a similar tomb to Sir Rowland Lytton and his two wives shared the same fate, the brasses of this being preserved and laid on the chapel floor.[1] The inscription reads—

"Hic procerum de stirpe satum cum conjuge clara
John Hotoft iterum telluris condimus urnis
Hospitii regis qui Thesaurarius olim
Henrici Sexti merito pollebat honore.
Sit lux perpetua sibi post hec horida lustra
Corpora spiritibus . . . ."

Which we may translate—

"Here we again commit to the urns (i.e. vaults) of the earth, with his distinguished wife, John Hotoft, sprung from a race of nobles, who, as Treasurer of the Household of King Henry VI, flourished with deserved honour. May he have perpetual light after his stormy life here." (The last line is incomplete, the prayer having been cut off.)

On the floor in the middle of the chancel is a brass to a priest (see illustration). The embroidery on the orfrayes of the cope is

[1] It is more probable that the Lytton brass was always in its present position.

very chaste. Under rich tabernacle work are representations of the Virgin and Child, St. John the Baptist, St. Peter, St. Paul, two Bishops, St. Andrew, and St. James. On the morse with which the cope is fastened is the head of Christ. The inscription reads—

"Hic jacet dñs Simon Bache Clicus quondã Thesaurari Hospicii illustrissimi
Principis dñi Henrici quinti Regis Angl ac chanonic ecclie cathedralis sci pauli,
london, q[i] obiit XIX[mo] Die Maii A° dñi M°CCCC°XIIII." ("Cujus anima propicietur," broken off.)

Which translated—

"Here lyeth Sir Simon Bache, formerly clerk to the Treasurer of the Household to his most illustrious prince Henry the Fifth, King of England. Also Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Who died the 19th day of May, Anno Domini 1414." ("On whose soul, Lord, have mercy," broken off.)

BACHE BRASS.

The Lytton Chapel appears to have been erected about the end of the sixteenth century, although the arch opening on the chancel is of earlier date, and seems to indicate the existence of a previous building. There are no traces visible of its having been used as a chantry chapel, but merely as a mortuary. We have alluded to Sir Rowland Lytton's brass, and will only briefly describe the massive cumbersome marble statuary monuments of a latter era. The lengthy Latin eulogistic epitaphs must be left to the individual with tastes in this direction to read and translate.

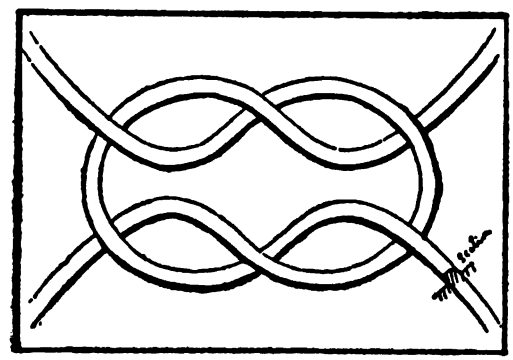
At the west end of the chapel, on a massive marble pedestal, between two fluted pillars supporting a semicircular pediment, is the life-size figure of a gentleman in the costume of the reign of Queen Anne, which commemorated the memory of Lytton Lytton, son of Sir George Strode, Knt.[1]

[1] Lytton Strode, on succeeding to the Lytton property, took the surname of Lytton, and was known as Lytton Lytton.

On the north wall opposite the entrance is a sarcophagus of black marble, in front of which are three children holding as emblems a skull, an hourglass, and a serpent enjoined, while at the ends of the tomb are a lady and gentleman kneeling on cushions in an attitude of devotion with their prayer-books. Above them, carved in relief, are three girls and a youth, the surviving children of William Robinson Lytton Strode, 1732, to whose memory and that of his wife the monument is erected.

A little to the east of this is another monument to William Lytton, 1705, who is represented reposing on a cushion. He is in full dress, wearing a Ramilies wig with a lace neckcloth and wristbands. Above is a massive canopy, supported by four Corinthian columns. On the south wall is a similar monument to George Strode, 1707, whose effigy is also in a reclining attitude. There are five other memorials to the Lyttons, and four others specified by Clutterbuck have disappeared.

On the exterior of the church are two or three somewhat unusual features. In the angle formed by the north nave and chapel walls is a small circular fragment of masonry, which may have had some connection with the rood-loft stairs. There are two curious holes some six inches square piercing the buttress at the north-west angle of the nave, but for what purpose it is impossible to say. There is a quaint little panel (see illustration) carved with flowing



BOURCHIER KNOT ON STAIR TURRET TO TOWER.
(One-fourth actual size.)

pattern on the external face of the tower stair turret just above the upper moulding of the base course. It is the Bourchier Knot, a device assumed by the Bourchiers, who owned Knebworth House in the fifteenth century. The method of joining the north and south

nave walls to the tower is rather singular. The tower has four similar and complete angle buttresses, and the north-east and south-east buttresses still show inside and outside. The nave may at one period have been narrower, or the north wall may have been rebuilt owing to its subsidence from damp, and thus was not bonded into the tower buttress. On the other hand, the fact of the tower being of a later period than the wall might account for this feature.

The registers, apart from those at present in use, are in four volumes, the earliest being 1606. In Dr. Williams' library, Gordon Square, is a register of Knebworth, consisting of thirty-six folios, and is a register of baptisms, burials, and marriages from September 29th, 1596, to 1599, and from 1606 to 1719, with a gap from 1650 to 1663. It also contains most interesting early churchwardens' accounts, 1599 to 1609. One cannot but think that such a book should be restored to its rightful custodians, or at any rate an attested copy made and kept with the other registers.

A. Whitford Anderson.
W. B. Gerish.

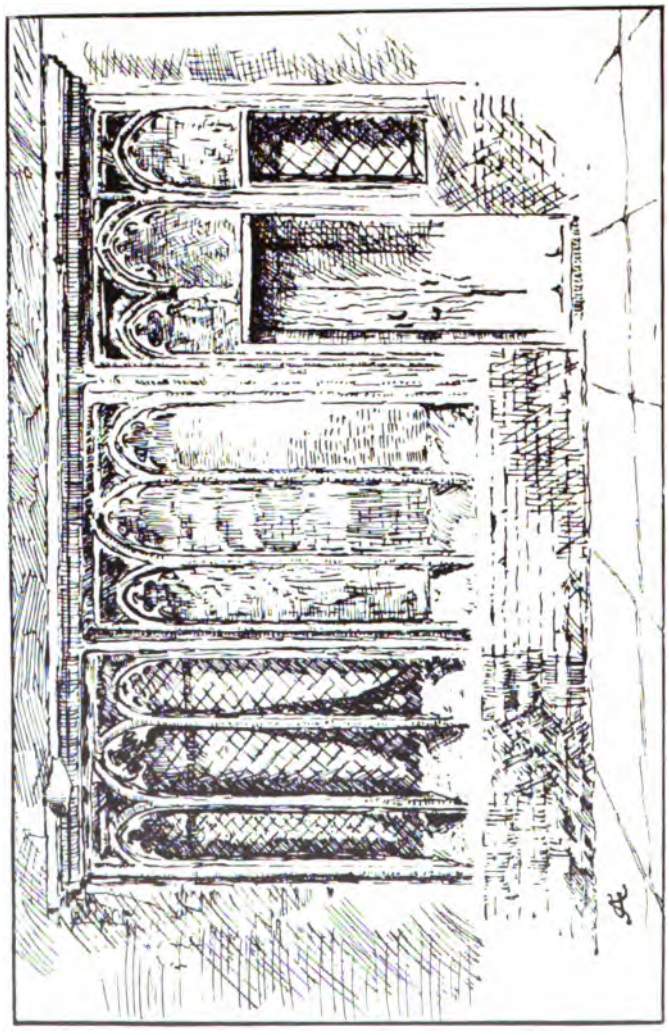
THE TYLERS' GUILDHALL (now "The Cooper's Arms"), HITCHIN.

Those members of the Herts Archæological Societies who visited Hitchin on the 28th of August, 1901, will doubtless remember the fine old window of the ancient house in Tilehouse Street. This window, dating probably from the end of the fifteenth or early sixteenth century, is an excellent example of mediæval mason's work, but is now to some extent hidden by outbuildings of the small inn-yard of the "Cooper's Arms." The window, one of two bays, originally gave light to a very imposing hall with an open timber roof. The original plan of the building consisted of two long rooms and a central hall. The principal entrance to the house was through a doorway near the side of the back bay, enclosed by later additions; this door opened direct into the middle chamber. The dimensions of the building appear to have been as follows:—Centre room, 18 feet wide; length from front to back bays, 28 ft. 8 ins.; room at side, about 43 feet in length, now divided. This room still retains in part its open roof, but a ceiling having been inserted, the roof space forms an upper chamber. The room on the right of the hall from the entrance was destroyed about fifty years ago, two cottages now occupying the site. The door arch to this room (which was about 24 feet in length) still remains, the door space being filled with masonry.

Various reasons have been given to account for this building. Some suppose it to have been a chapel, and the somewhat ecclesiastical appearance of the window has given point to this view.

The window is divided by a roll moulding into three panels, each containing three lights divided by roll and ogee moulded mullions, while the head of each light-space is cusped.

The original plan of this building, and also its architectural design, are, however, purely domestic, and not ecclesiastical. That the house was originally built to serve the purpose of a merchant's residence cannot for obvious reasons be entertained; therefore we must look further afield to discover its original use. May not its surroundings give some clue? This house formerly stood quite detached. From the entrance to the building, which was away from the street side, an open green extended nearly to the Market



WINDOW IN WHAT IS NOW "THE COOPER'S ARMS," HITCHIN.

From a Drawing by G. AYLOTT.

Place; by a pathway across this green the Parish Church could be reached by a three minutes' walk. Street names oftentimes render great service to the archæologist. We know the ancient custom to have been for workmen to live in colonies, each trade or craft guild dwelling in their own portion of a town. Hence at Hitchin we have Bucklersbury and Tyler's Street. The later name, Tilehouse Street, takes its name from a house, and probably from this house. The name Tyler's Street is to be found on documents down to the end of the seventeenth century, and we know that a 'Tyle' or Brickyard existed higher up this street, near where now stands the Baptist Chapel.

We may thus reasonably suppose the earlier occupiers of this street to have been 'Tylers and Masons,' and that in the present "Cooper's Arms" may be found the guildhouse or guildhall of that Company.

The original plan of the "Cooper's Arms" house fulfils all the requirements for a guildhouse. First, the large and well-lighted dining-hall; on one side the kitchen and servants' office, on the other a long council chamber. Each room was lofty, with an open timber roof, part of which still remains.

Hitchin formerly had other guildhouses, several of which, in an altered form, still exist. Bancroft at one time was a stronghold of the 'merchants of the staple,' and it is to this ward of the town we naturally turn for evidence of the existence of various guilds. The woolstaplers had their guildhouse in this street, now a well-known private residence; almost opposite to this house is to be seen what was at one time another guildhouse, the fine timber front of which is still a noticeable feature. Near by also stood a Brotherhood house, formerly a part of the ecclesiastical manor of the (Biggin), the Manor House of which was occupied by a small number of Gilbertine nuns. In the High Street of the same ward there are some few remains of a guildhouse, though no record of these houses can be found.

It has been very generally thought that the art of making bricks fell into disuse after the Romans vacated England, but no proof of this exists. The word 'brick' did not come into general use until the middle of the fifteenth century. Before that date the word 'tile' was used, and a tyler was a maker of bricks; therefore a tileyard would at the present day be known as a brickyard.

In the records of the building of Beverley Bar,[1] the word 'tile' is used to denote brick. The date of building of Beverley Bar

[1] East Riding Antiquarian Society's Transactions, vol. iv (1896).

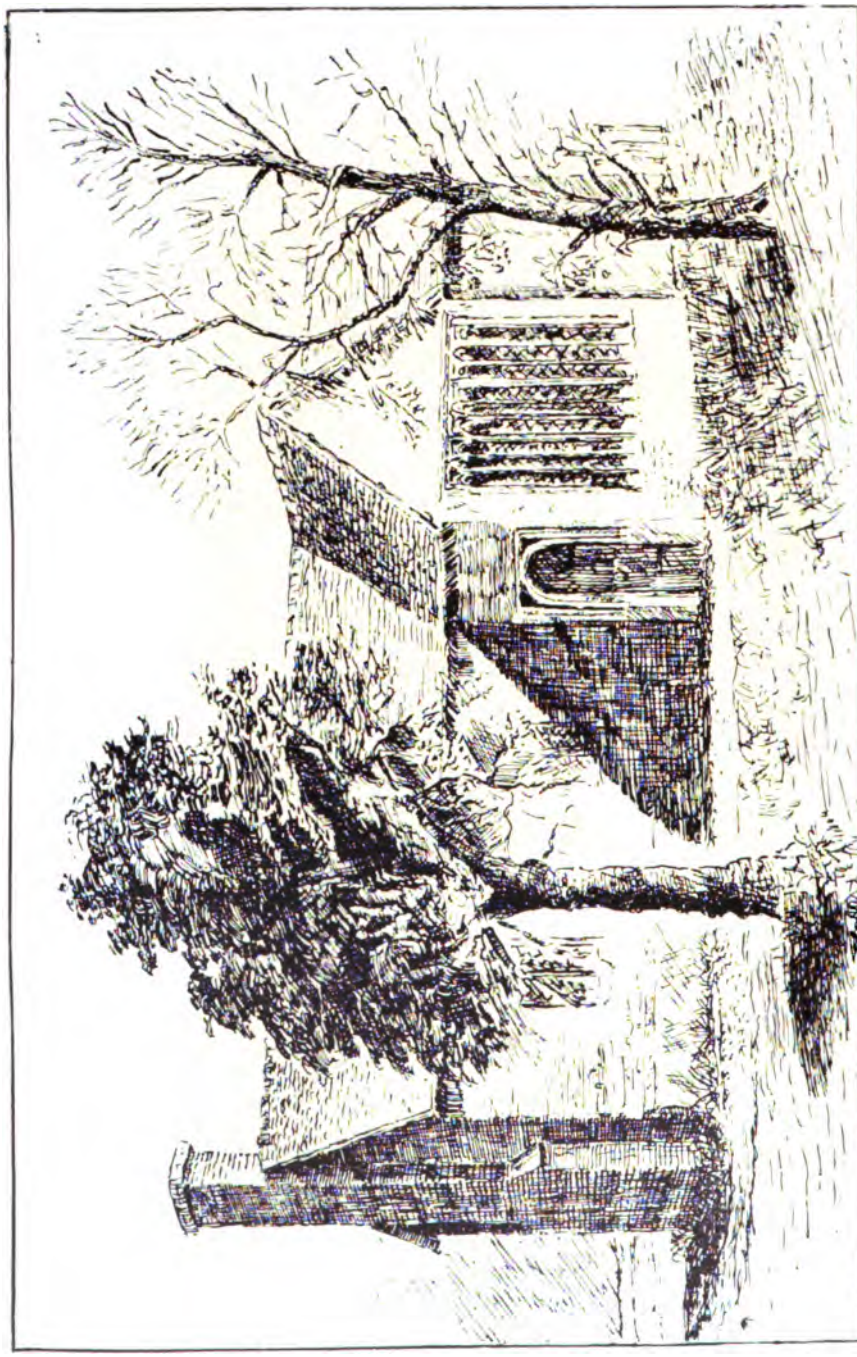
is given by John Bilson, F.S.A., for the year 1409–10, and the accounts show it was begun and finished in the year. Throughout these accounts bricks are always called wall-tiles or tegulæ, and the bricklayer is called tegulator; roof-tiles are called thack-tiles. The accounts are complete in detail, and give the price paid for each article supplied. The bricks were bought from several 'tyleyards'; some of the entries read as follows:—

"Et praeterea praedicti computant solutis ir° die Julii Johanni Elward pro vj millibus Waltill, pretii mille iij.s. viij.d. ... ... xxij.s."
"Et Willelmo de Wode pro iij mille Waltill ... ... x.s. viij.d."
"Et eodem die agneti Tiler pro mille tegularum ... ... iij.s. viij.d."
"Et Johanni Elward pro mille squynchon et vj.s. Walltill ... ... vj.s."

In referring to these building accounts, it becomes clear that a tyler was a maker of bricks, and tyler and mason were the manufacturer and builder, and their guilds would consist of the employers of both branches of the industry.

These craft guilds were many-sided and fulfilled many functions. They existed for the better regulation of their particular craft, controlled the price paid for labour, and were responsible for the good conduct of their workmen in their daily life, provided for them in sickness and old age, and their decent burial after death. Master and workmen met frequently to adjust grievances of a private or public nature. The warden and searchers were responsible for good workmanship and materials supplied. The courts of the guilds were a small governing body, and almost supreme in their wards. Once during each month all members dined together in hall. In the early ages of our commercial life these guilds were a necessary form of local government. Whether English guilds were indigenous or founded upon a prototype, and if so, whether such a prototype is to be found in the Roman guilds, does not come within the limits of this paper. That English guilds rapidly rose to power and influence cannot be doubted; Henry VIII and also Edward VI laid a heavy hand upon the houses and property of the guilds. After the religious houses had been suppressed, Henry could not allow these rich merchant fraternities to exist, therefore his confiscating policy reached them also. Their guildhouses fell into private hands, and were in most cases converted into dwelling-houses.

Queen Elizabeth appears to have done good service to the bricklayer. An Assize of Bricks was held at York in the thirty-second year of her reign, which fixed the dimensions at $10 \times 5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This assize must have done away with much confusion. No uniform



THE TYLER'S GUILDHALL (suggested Restoration of "The Cooper's Arms," Hitchin).
From a Drawing by G. AYLOTT.

size had apparently been attempted before this, each maker having his own standard of measurement. Some effect of this confusion can be seen locally, viz., at Sommeries Castle, near Luton. In these ruins I have noticed that not less than three different sizes had been used in its construction; and apparently the supply had been taken from as many brickyards.

Upon looking over the later additions to the "Cooper's Arms" we find in one of the upper rooms a date, 1614. In the seventeenth century many alterations and additions were made to the house. The open roof of the hall was taken off down to the window cornice, and over the cornice, resting upon the masonry, was built a timber superstructure, faced with lath and plaster. The 43 feet room was divided by the addition of a massive chimney; at the end was built a gabled upper room. The building then assumed the form of a gabled merchant's house. In the eighteenth century another decline set in, and we find the building further divided into small tenements. About forty years ago that portion of the original house then remaining was reconverted into a place of entertainment, viz. an inn.

The aim of the writer of this paper is to show some reason why the house now known as the "Cooper's Arms" may have been the Guildhouse of the Tylers and Masons. Those who have seen the stone mullioned window of the back bay express surprise at the striking beauty of its lines. The merchants of our day naturally exhibit some of their best work to prospective customers, and we may be sure the mediæval merchant would do the same. Good substantial work is still to be found at the "Cooper's Arms," which would do credit to a twentieth century mason.

G. Aylott.

NOTES ON FINDS.

UNDER this heading will be included all notices of discoveries of antiquarian interest that may be received from members and friends. The Council hope that should any finds come under the notice of members, the latter will aid the Society by forwarding to the Editor of these *Transactions* a short account of any articles unearthed and of the circumstances of their discovery, accompanied, if possible, by photographs of the objects themselves and by their measurements (preferably in inches and decimals of an inch).

9. HODDESDON.

Seal of Nicholas Dillon.

There was recently found in the grounds of St. Cross, the residence of Mr. T. S. Hillas-Drake, a bronze seal some 1·6 inches in diameter having upon it a shield bearing the following arms:—*A lion rampant with a fesse over it and a crescent and two stars in the chief, and a star and two crescents in the nether part.*

Round this shield is the legend—

Sigillum: nicholau: dillon: armig'i:

The arms are those of the family of Dillon of Chymwell, in the parish of Bratton, co. Devon, and at first sight the reason for their appearance in this county does not seem very obvious; but upon referring to "The Visitation of Hertfordshire, 1634,"[1] we find under the pedigree of Drew, of Broxbourne, that the grandfather of Nathaniell Drew of that place had married into this branch of the Dillon family, and that Nathaniell Drew's father is there described as of Bratton Fleming, co. Devon.

So this seal had evidently been brought with them to be lost where it has now been recovered, a spot which, I believe, has only been built upon in recent years.

The will of a Nicholas Dillon, of Chymwell, was proved in the P.C.C. 20th Jan., 1517–18 (Ayloffe 4), and he was probably the owner of the seal, as its style and the character of the lettering agree with this period.

I am indebted to Mr. Hillas-Drake for the loan of the seal, and to Mr. William Brigg for the reference to the will given above. The illustration at the head of this note is a facsimile of an impression from the seal.

J. Barton Caldecott.

[1] Harleian Society, vol. xxii, p. 50.

MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS.

ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVERSAZIONE.

By the kind permission of Mr. C. A. Christie, the Annual Meeting and Conversazione was held at Esdale House, Hoddesdon, on April 17th, 1902. About eighty members and friends were present; the President (Mr. Abel H. Smith, M.P.) occupied the chair for the first portion of the meeting, and when he left to fulfil a Parliamentary engagement Mr. J. B. Caldecott (the hon. editor) took his place.

The Chairman opened the proceedings with an interesting address. He assured his hearers that it gave him great pleasure to be able to take the chair on that occasion. He felt perhaps he ought to apologize for his absence on previous occasions, and say how sorry he was that other engagements rendered it impossible for him to be present. It was not proposed that evening to read the report and balance-sheet, as it had already been circulated amongst the members. They would all be pleased to see that the Society was in a very prosperous condition, and that there was a steady and satisfactory increase in the membership. He thought it was a matter for congratulation that, though the Society was not a very old one, some good work had already been done in the East Herts district. They had the advantage of having issued to them a most interesting "Transactions," and their thanks were due to the Secretary and the Editor for the great trouble they had taken in this and other matters affecting the welfare of the Society. He would like also to say how grateful they were to Mr. C. A. Christie for allowing them the use of that hall for their gathering, and to the local committee who had arranged the hall so nicely. A most useful part of the Society's work was the collection of photographs taken at the various places visited by the Society during the last two or three years, which would be increasingly valuable as time went on. The members of the Society could do good work in the future by using their influence in the interests of archæology. They might often, for instance, use their influence in protecting ancient buildings existing among them, and other ancient fabrics, which might be in danger of destruction or disfigurement; and if not able to save the relics of past ages, at any

rate they might secure, by photography or some other means, a record of their present condition. He asked them to consider how different would be our knowledge of the past if such a Society as theirs had existed. He would not presume to offer advice to those present, as most of them were better qualified to speak on archæological matters than himself. But he would like to remind them of the excellent address delivered by Mr. Hellier Gosselin at the inauguration of the Society, and they could not do better than follow the advice he gave in that address. In the district covered by their operations there was an excellent field for work. From the earliest times it had been an important district, owing to its nearness to the Metropolis and for other reasons. As they were aware, important Roman roads ran through or near their district, and it was very interesting to trace the course of those roads. Roman remains were found in various places in the district, which seemed to point to its being an important part of the country during the Roman occupation. Although they might not possess many remains representative of the Anglo-Saxon times, they had some interesting survivals of the ancient system of land tenure of that period and for many years afterwards. The study of this system would well repay those members of the East Herts Archæological Society who took an interest in such matters, and he mentioned in this connection perhaps the first authority on these questions, who had written an important book on English village communities, and who resided in Hertfordshire — Mr. Frederic Seebohm. When they came to a later period they had most beautiful and interesting churches in nearly every parish throughout their district. The Society had already visited several of these churches, and he felt sure that the study devoted to them would bring to light many interesting and historical facts in connection with them. It had been said, continued Mr. Smith, that archæology was the handmaid of history, and he was sure that the study of the relics of the past must be of great assistance to them in realizing what the past history was, not only of this district, but of the whole country. He sincerely hoped that another successful year awaited the members, in the continuance of good work already achieved, and in agreeable and profitable excursions in the Summer months. He again expressed his pleasure at being able to preside on that occasion.

Mr. H. Pollard proposed the re-election of the officers and retiring members of the Council, and also the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

Mr. W. F. Andrews seconded, and the motion was cordially assented to.

The retiring members of the Council were the Rev. J. J. Baker, the Rev. W. D. Fenning, Mr. R. T. Andrews, Mr. J. R. Pulham, and Mr. J. A. Tregelles.

A series of views, illustrating the places visited by the Society during the past year, were then shown by means of the lantern. The particulars as to each were furnished by Mr. Gerish, and Dr. Wells manipulated the lantern.

During the interval an hour was devoted to the inspection of the exhibits, and refreshments were kindly provided by Mr. Christie. Among the exhibits were the following:—From the East Herts Archæological Society: a large number of books, photographs, views, an old will, portraits of Herts historians, etc. Mr. C. A. Christie: many views of Rawdon House and Hoddesdon. Mr. Howard Warner: several views of Rawdon House and a silver spoon found there. Mr. W. Whitley: books of views of old buildings in Hoddesdon, framed views of old buildings in Hoddesdon and neighbourhood, old millstones of grit and conglomerate, Roman brick, and an inscribed brick. Mr. W. F. Andrews: large book of local views, rubbings of memorial brasses in Hertfordshire churches. Mr. R. T. Andrews: a collection of English coins and seventeenth-century tokens of Hoddesdon and the neighbourhood. The Parish Authorities: Roman and British pottery, two greybeards, old Roundhead pipes, pottery from various localities in and around Hoddesdon, old ironwork and weapons. Mr. J. A. Hunt: photographs, views, etc., of Hoddesdon and the neighbourhood.

The conversazione came to a close with votes of thanks to Mr. A. H. Smith, Mr. Caldecott, Mr. Christie, Mr. Gerish, and Dr. Wells.

Tenth Excursion.

STANSTEAD-GILSTON DISTRICT.

THE first excursion of the year was made on Thursday, June 5th, to the Stanstead and Gilston district.

STANSTEAD ST. MARGARETS CHURCH.

The party first assembled at the little church of St. Margarets, where Mr. Septimus Croft read a paper (*vide* pp. 23–25) upon it. In his grounds at St. Margaretsbury, Mr. Croft pointed out an iron gate of eighteenth-century work, bearing the arms of Sir Bibye Lake, who was created a baronet by Queen Anne, 1711, was lord of the manor of Amwell, 1743, and was grand-nephew of Edward Lake, chancellor of the diocese of London, and was named a baronet by Charles I, having fought at the battle of Naseby, 1645, and received sixteen wounds.

RYE HOUSE.

A short drive ended at Rye House, where the plot to assassinate King Charles II and his brother, the Duke of York (afterwards James II), was to have been carried out in 1683. An inspection was made of the gate-house, all that is left of the 'Castle,' and in the dining-hall adjacent Mr. R. T. Andrews read a paper on the gate-house, illustrated with old plans, etc. In a room in another part of the Rye House grounds is

THE GREAT BED OF WARE.

After this had been inspected Mr. W. F. Andrews gave an account of it. For many years the bedstead was at the Saracen's Head Hotel, Ware, in a room which had a low ceiling, and, consequently, it was said that the height of the corner-posts was reduced. After a sale at the hotel in 1864 the proprietor of the Rye House bought the bedstead and other articles. It was popularly believed that the bed was round and that it could accommodate 24 people, but as the bedstead is rectangular such a number of persons could not sleep on it very comfortably. Shakespeare alludes to it in "Twelfth Night," Act iii, scene 2, where Sir Toby Belch says, "Go, write it in a martial hand; be curst and brief; it is no matter how witty, so it be eloquent and full of invention: taunt him with the license of ink: if thou 'thou'st' him some thrice, it shall not be amiss; and as many lies

as will lie in thy sheet of paper, although the sheet were big enough for the bed of Ware in England, set 'em down: go, about it." Perhaps the earliest recorded mention of this 'piece of furniture' is in the "Poetical Itinerary" of Prince Ludwig of Anhalt-Kohten, who visited this country in 1596, five years anterior to "Twelfth Night." His reference to the bed may be thus rendered:—

> "At Ware was a bed of dimensions so wide,
> Four couples might cosily lie side by side,
> And thus without touching each other abide."

According to Cussans' history of the county, the great bed was originally in the Crown Inn at Ware, but was transferred to the Bull Inn, and thence to the Saracen's Head. The style of carving does not indicate a period earlier than Queen Elizabeth, and the date, 1463, painted at the head, is comparatively modern. The bedstead and panelling are of English oak, and are probably of considerable value. The bedstead is nearly square, each side being about 11 feet in length. The posts are plain at the bottom, and about 2 feet from the ground are four pillars, one at each angle of the posts. The pillars support four arches, above which the posts, elaborately carved, continue for about 4 feet more, the total height being about 8 feet. The canopy and the head are finely carved with human figures, fluted work, heraldic roses, and Gothic arches. There is a fine engraving of the bedstead in Clutterbuck's "History of Hertfordshire," and also in Shaw's "Specimens of Ancient Furniture." It seems to be the general opinion that the great bed was originally in the Manor House at Ware Park, formerly the property of the Fanshawe family, persons of note, and was removed from that house to the Crown. It was probably a state bedstead.

The next part of the drive was along the 'causeway,' used by Charles II when travelling from London to Newmarket and back.

STANSTEADBURY.

The next stopping-place was the picturesque and interesting old mansion of Stansteadbury, which stands within the limits of a Roman encampment, where Miss Trower and Mr. Spencer Trower kindly welcomed the visitors, who were shown into the underground "Monks' Chapel," now used as a cellar. In the wall are two niches, one a piscina, the other, without doubt, a locker or aumbrey, and there is a square recess in the east wall for an altar, undoubtedly constructed, after the suppression of the religious houses, for the celebration of Mass in secret. The house was a grange belonging to the Abbey of Waltham. The party also visited the "once celebrated chalybeate springs" in the meadow adjoining the house. One of them

flows into a cellar near the "Monks' Chapel." Fragments of Roman pottery, etc., found in the churchyard, were exhibited.

THE MANOR OF RYE.

After luncheon Mr. R. T. Andrews gave some particulars of the Manor of Rye (*vide* pp. 32–45). On the proposition of Mr. T. F. Buxton, a vote of thanks to Miss Trower and Mr. S. Trower was passed, and Mr. Trower, in reply, expressed their pleasure at seeing their visitors.

STANSTEAD ABBOTTS CHURCH.

The Rev. J. W. Lewis read a paper giving a description of the building, etc. (*vide* pp. 27–31).

HUNSDON CHURCH.

Mrs. J. E. Morris read a paper upon this church (*vide* pp. 46–56), and Mr. W. F. Andrews described the brasses within it. The Rev. S. Nairne, formerly Rector of Hunsdon, said the font appeared to be new, but it was the original one. His predecessor in 1851 had it recut, which he thought would improve it. The parish clerk told him that he took it down and packed it; so, no doubt, it was the font at which Queen Elizabeth stood sponsor. There were many interesting entries in the registers. He pointed out that the figure above the effigy of Margaret Shelley on the brass represented the Holy Trinity. The rood-screen went to the proper height, for in the beam above where it stood is the notch where the head of the rood rested.

GILSTON CHURCH.

A pleasant drive, past Eastwick Church, brought the party to Terlings, where Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Johnston hospitably entertained them at tea. Afterwards the conservatory and beautiful grounds were much admired. The Rev. H. A. Lipscomb proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston for their kindness, and on it being carried Mr. Johnston said it gave Mrs. Johnston and himself much pleasure to see them. At the church, which stands almost alone, Mr. C. E. Johnston, B.A., read a paper. The communion plate and old parish books were shown; the register of baptisms and burials dates from 1558, and that of marriages from 1559. Here ended a very pleasant day's proceedings.

Eleventh Excursion.

ASPENDEN-ANSTEY DISTRICT.

MEMBERS of the East Herts Archæological Society and several friends made their eleventh excursion on Wednesday, July 16th, in the Aspenden-Anstey district. There was a good attendance, three brakes starting from Hertford and one from Bishop's Stortford.

ASPENDEN CHURCH.

After assembling in this interesting and well cared for little church, the party sang the last verse of the morning hymn, and then the Rev. A. P. Sanderson, M.A., gave some particulars of the building (*vide* pp. 61–63).

Mr. Sanderson and the Misses Sanderson most hospitably entertained the party at luncheon on the Rectory lawn. Afterwards he showed tracings of a double niche found in the thickness of the wall over the drawing-room mantelpiece; he supposed the patron saint of the parish stood in one niche and the priest's patron saint in the other. The Rectory, he said, was supposed to be 400 years old, built about 1500, and was a very interesting specimen of an old English dwelling-house. It had a timber frame of oak, on which were oak lathes, covered with a strong plaster, and was as strong as it was on the day it was built. In the dining-room was a very good timber roof. The drawing-room and the dining-room having been inspected, a vote of thanks to Mr. Sanderson for his interesting address, and also to him and the Misses Sanderson for having entertained the party in the kindest possible way, was heartily carried and acknowledged. The visit to Aspenden Hall had to be omitted, and a visit was paid to the earthworks in Bottrill's Close, the origin of which it is difficult to define.

LAYSTON CHURCH.

On the way to Layston Church, the Chapel of Ease, Buntingford, was inspected. The communion plate is dated 1727. In the vestry is a grant of the market by Henry VIII (*vide* pp. 1–5). Layston Church, some little distance out of Buntingford, is in a deplorable condition. Daylight can be seen in places through the roof; the windows are broken; the south porch is very dilapidated; and a monument of the Crouch family appears to have been wantonly damaged. Mr. H. P. Pollard read a paper upon the building (*vide* pp. 64–67).

WYDDIAL CHURCH.

The party then drove to Wyddial, where the Rev. F. R. Broughton gave some particulars relating to the church. A vote of thanks to Mr. Broughton was passed. The party then drove to

ANSTEY RECTORY,

where tea, kindly provided by the Rev. R. O. T. Thorpe and Mrs. Thorpe, was very welcome. Mr. Thorpe exhibited tally-sticks relating to the church, and the phial, found in the chancel wall, containing a liquid reputed to be blood, the quantity of which (Mr. Thorpe said) appeared to have diminished since it came into his charge. After a hearty vote of thanks to their hosts, another short drive brought the party to

ANSTEY CHURCH,

of which Mr. Gerish gave the following particulars:—This church is one of the most interesting and beautiful in the Buntingford district; the cruciform shape adds greatly to its attractiveness from an architectural and ecclesiological point of view, and it is the first example of this form that the Society has visited. There is reason to believe that there was a church here in Saxon times, probably of flint and rubble, like old Bengeo and Little Hormead. The Norman successors of the Saxon owner rebuilt the church in the massive style then spreading over England. Most of the stone used came from a local quarry, and when the founder's castle was destroyed doubtless much of the stonework was taken for alterations and repairs of the church. The turret staircase leading to the priest's rooms over the transepts and the building (now destroyed) on the north of the chancel owed their materials, it is probable, to the dismantled castle. The fabric stands on what appears to be an artificial mound, as it slopes sharply on all sides save the east. To what saint the church is dedicated is not known, but there is reason to believe it is St. George. The lych-gate at the south-west corner is of interest: few original gates survive. He knew of only two or three others in Herts. The principal features on the exterior of the church are the circular turret staircase, with its crenelle lights, the semicircular buttresses on the north and south sides (which he thought are unique in Herts), the grotesque gargoyles on the south side, and the remains of a cross fleury (the shaft portion and one perfect arm) which was undoubtedly the gable or pinnacle-cross from the east end, the base of which remains *in situ*. In response to Mr. Gerish's suggestion the Rector has preserved this in the church.

The architecture of the south porch is enriched Perpendicular, and there are windows east and west. There are circular sundial marks on the sills of the windows. As to the interior, the pier arches, which are unusually straight, and the clerestory are Geometrical Early English, or a later stage than Lancet Early English. There is strong ground for believing that these were erected with materials from the castle, which existed until nearly 1400. If they fixed the erection of the nave and aisles at 1400 or a little later, that coincided with the demolition of the castle. The nave consists of four bays, the arcades of which and the quatrefoil clerestory windows are severely plain. It was reroofed in 1830; it seems probable, however, that only the decayed ends of the beams were cut off, and the pitch of the roof lowered (as can be seen from marks on the exterior), and a new west window inserted. The font, according to Cussans, is of the Early English period, but one is inclined to deem it rather earlier—if not Saxon, certainly Norman. Mr. Anderson dates it from the early part of the twelfth century—its shape is an early indication, as also is the symbolical use of carving as distinct from the sacred numbers, which were so much utilized in later times. The octagonal bowl is ornamented with grotesque human heads attached to small portions of bodies with arms which are apparently grasping the prows of Norman galleys. The Rural Dean thinks that the rough boat-shaped figures are symbolical of the admitted believer to baptism in the ark of Christ's Church. The bowl rests on a central column (comparatively modern) surrounded by five smaller shafts. It is the only font of the kind in Herts. The aisles are rather later than the nave, and belong to the Decorated period. In the windows north and south of the west door are a few fragments of old stained glass, probably Tudor. At the junction of the nave and chancel rises the tower; its four piers and arches are Transition Norman, and are of exactly the same height and span. The arches rest on plain capitals and the typically massive piers of the period. The upper portion of the tower is Late Decorated. The tower arches are supported on their western side by two semi-detached columns, the shafts of which are ornamented at the top, centre, and base with a collar; and a string of small columns with capitals over the arch constitutes a hood-moulding. There are Early English doorways in the east and west faces of the tower. There are no traces of any rood-loft; the rood was probably affixed above the tower arch. The north transept is used as a vestry; the wood partition separating the vestry from the church was formerly the chancel screen. There is only one window to the north, but the west window, now blocked, was like those in the south transept, except that it is Early Decorated. It has somewhat the appearance of a doorway. Mr. Anderson thought it was only an adaptation of the common thirteenth and fourteenth

century arrangement of having an arch—sometimes called a rear-arch—with or without tracery, to carry the inner face of a thick wall. It is practically the same as the east window of the south transept, but is strengthened with two mullions. It has the same high outer arch or window proper, and the low rear-arch. All the other windows in the transept and chancel of the same date have rear-arches. There apparently was no window on the eastern side; but the wall shows signs of later construction, as at one period there was a building to the east. This probably was a sacristy; the ends of the beams which supported it project from the wall a little above the level of the ground, and the position of its roof is shown by the four projecting corbels on the north of the chancel. The large aumbry on the exterior of the chancel must have been within a building. In the vestry is a post-Reformation communion-table. There is an oak chest with plain iron bands, etc. It had two locks, one of which is destroyed, and is in rather bad condition, requiring cleaning and treating with hot linseed-oil. The south transept at one period was used as a chantry chapel. The tomb in a recess under the south wall is that of a lady. The effigy is singularly small. This indicates its early date, which one may assign to about 1350, or a little earlier. There is a fine projecting column and bowl piscina, and there are traces of a reredos in the shape of an image-bracket under the eastern window. The altar-stone is said to lie on the ground immediately beneath its former situation, but hidden by the wooden floor. At the south-west angle of this transept is the entrance to the stone staircase which we saw on the exterior. It led to a room which extended over the whole transept, probably the abode of the chantry priest. It was lighted by a small window still existing, over the large south window. The windows on the south, east, and west of this transept have, as previously stated, rear-arches, the crowns of these arches being much lower than the heads of the windows themselves: the space between gradually sloped inwards. This gave a maximum of light, and at the same time seems to indicate that the priest's chamber did not exist when the windows were made. The east end of the chancel was formerly raised four steps. The east window is modern Perpendicular, which, about 1830, replaced a beautiful Early English window much decayed. The north and south walls do not bond in the piers of the chancel arch, but are open at the angles so as to constitute flying buttresses. The openings apparently were made to serve as hagioscopes for the north and south transepts, and enabled the priests at the chantry altars to view the high altar. The grotesque heads of the lancet windows are curious. The triple sedilia, for priest, deacon, and sub-deacon, are of rather later work than the rest of the chancel. To the right of the eastern sedile is a tapering lancet opening which

opens into a large piscina. This feature both Mr. Anderson and himself inclined to think was merely decorative. The piscina has two drains, showing it was erected not later than the thirteenth century, and is unusually large. In the upper part is a credence table (to hold the cruets containing the holy oil, etc.), which is supported on a plain circular arch. To the north of the chancel arch is the priest's door, blocked; the doorway is cut diagonally through the wall, and was so made to afford the priest in the sacristy or chapel a view of the altar. On the north and south of the chancel are twelve miserere, stalls or oak seats. On four on the north are carved (1) two fools' heads, (2) a grinning face, (3) birds, (4) foliage, whilst the carvings have been removed from two. The six on the south have oak and sycamore leaves and fan tracery, executed with considerable skill. Some of the bench-ends on the choir-stalls have been preserved, and well-designed copies have been made to match them. The chancel was long in proportion to the nave—frequently a feature in cruciform churches. At the last restoration a reliquary containing blood was found embedded in the chancel wall. Two tally-sticks relating to church accounts still exist. Whatever church plate survived the Edwardian pillagers has disappeared; that in use is comparatively modern. The fabric requires substantial repair. It would be grievous if the apathy so glaringly displayed at Layston were repeated here. The wealthy squire with a love for the traditions of the past does not exist at Anstey, and it is only by appealing to a wider district that the Rector can hope to raise funds for the work. The paper ended with an appeal to those whom the reader was sure would assist in preserving that noble monument of our forefathers' piety and zeal.

ANSTEY CASTLE.

The site of Anstey Castle is near the church and the Hall, the residence of Mr. Jas. Pigg. There are three entrenched mounds, surrounded by moats, but there are not any remains of buildings. The keep, which is supposed to have stood on the highest mound, must at one time have been almost impregnable.

Mr. J. W. Parry read a paper (not written by himself, but which he had been asked to read) on Anstey Castle. The writer gave a description of Anstey Castle, built on an ancient, artificial mound by Eustace the Norman, who held it at the time of the Domesday survey; it descended to the family of Richard the Clerk, known to us as Richard d'Anestie. The castle, we are told, was destroyed in 1254 by the orders of Henry III, because of the part taken by Nicholas d'Anestie in the Barons' Wars. Another account states that d'Anestie was required to take down only those portions which had been built during the said wars. It is probable this

structure replaced a castle built shortly after the Conquest, which was destroyed and rebuilt in King John's reign. This king is also credited with the destruction and consequent rebuilding of other Hertfordshire castles. There are fairly numerous scattered entries referring to the castle, as it was still called in the reign of Edward III, and the main keep seems to have existed until about 1400. Among the portions specified in the accounts are the moat, the great gate, sheepfolds, granges, and other farm buildings, the house and various domestic offices. We see to-day the three mounds upon which stood the keep, the homestead, and other buildings which cannot now be identified. All these mounds were well protected by deep moats which are connected one with another, and, doubtless, drawbridges communicated from the buildings on the lower mounds with the keep on the higher, to which the defenders could retire if necessary. No traces of any of the buildings remain; but one cannot help thinking that if judicious excavations on the summits of the mounds were undertaken and also the clearing of the moat, there might be revealed remains of considerable interest to the antiquary. Nothing has been attempted in any systematic manner so far as is known, nor have any 'finds' come to light. The reader was sure all would unite in thanking Mr. Pigg for permitting them to wander over his 'castle' and grounds.

The excursion terminated at this point.

Twelfth Excursion.

BRAMFIELD-KNEBWORTH-WELWYN DISTRICT.

The twelfth excursion of the East Herts Archæological Society — in the Bramfield-Welwyn district—took place on Thursday, 28th August. The first stopping-place was at

BRAMFIELD CHURCH.

Here Mr. R. T. Andrews read a paper, which stated that Bramfield probably derived its name from a great fire which occurred there in Saxon times, and it was called Brandfeld or Brantfeld (perhaps Burnt field, similarly to Brent Pelham), and later on Braintfield. About the time of the Domesday Book the manor belonged to Hardwin de Scalers; later on it passed to George Villiers, fourth Viscount Grandison, and now belongs to the Smith family, of Woodhall, Watton. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of chancel, nave, and south porch,

with tower containing two bells, surmounted by a spire. The tower and spire were rebuilt in 1840, when the church was restored. In 1870 the church was again restored, and the three-light window at the east end was filled with stained glass representing the Ascension. The church is a simple building of brick, but being on a clay foundation (which shrinks very much in hot weather) it is much damaged and cracked about, especially near the south-west corner of the nave. An entrance through the tower has been blocked for some years, and the tower is now used as a baptistry. It is said that there used to be a holy well, a spring in the church, near or under the tower, and the villagers took water from it, but some years since it was drained off into an adjacent field; and this may have caused shrinking of the clay, and consequently the cracks. At nearly the level of the floor on the south side of the chancel is an Early English piscina in fair preservation: it is low down in consequence of the raising of the floor at the last restoration. Matthew of Westminster relates that the rectory of Bramfield was held by Thomas à Becket as his first cure; and his name survives, as Becket's pond is a small pool (not far from the church) in the rectory grounds, and separated from the road by a wall. An ancient key of the church is called Becket's key. The registers, which date from 1559, are in an excellent state of preservation. A list of the goods and furniture belonging to the church in the reign of Edward VI followed. There are tablets to several of the Bourchier and Grandison families. The chancel arch is of wood. Bramfield was one of the places in the county which supported the Long Parliament in the interests of the Commonwealth in 1642; and in 1655 it contributed £1 17*s.* 6*d.* in aid of the distressed Protestants in Piedmont.

A short drive and a shorter walk on the Datchworth road brought the party to

CLIBBORN'S POST.

This, on the left-hand or southerly side of the way, is a tall iron-bound oak post, where Mr. W. F. Andrews read a paper. He said it was the scene of a tragedy 120 years ago. According to tradition, which was corroborated by the diary of a farmer who lived in the neighbourhood at the time, a man, Walter Clibbon or Clibborn, used to attend Hertford and other markets with a basket of cakes for sale, with which he visited many of the public-houses and ascertained who had received money in the market. He then, with the help of his wife and two sons, waylaid such persons, robbed them when he could, and murdered them if they made the slightest alarm or resistance. In one instance, having robbed and killed a farmer of Bennington, they put the body in his cart and his horse took it home. The sons, when afterwards arrested, confessed to this. The

depredators for a long time were the terror of the district, but were not suspected until Saturday, December 28th, 1782, when about six o'clock in the evening old Walter Clibborn was shot dead. He was shot during a struggle by a man in the employ of Mr. Benjamin Whittenbury, of Queen Hoo Hall; who had gone in pursuit of the robbers upon hearing that they had stopped and robbed a nephew of his. One of the sons was caught, and tried at the next Hertford Assizes, found guilty, and hanged. The other son escaped. Mr. Whittenbury, who died in 1801, was buried at Tewin. The Earl of Salisbury, soon after the encounter, presented him with a silver cup inscribed "This Cup, the gift of James, Earl of Salisbury, Lord Lieutenant, to Mr. Benjamin Whittenbury, of Queen Hoo Hall, presented this 31st day of January, 1783, in consideration of his spirited behaviour on Saturday, December 28th, 1782, in risking his life and securing Joseph Clibborn, the son, after having been instrumental in shooting Walter Clibborn, the father, a most notorious and inhuman offender, by which means the county of Hertford was delivered from the depredations of a most desperate set of villains." The elder Clibborn was buried by the side of this road, where he fell, and a post, to which was attached a suitable inscription, was fixed to denote the spot. This post fell into decay, and was renewed a few years ago at the expense of the President of this Society (Mr. Abel H. Smith, M.P.), and is known far and wide as "Clibborn's Post," as a warning to law-breakers. The silver cup, which weighed 28 oz., was purchased a few years ago by a tradesman in Hertford, and now belongs to a gentleman on the west side of the county; and the gun or fowling-piece, with which the robber was shot, is in the possession of an inhabitant of Hertford. It is an old-fashioned weapon, with flint lock, is about 5 feet 8 inches long, and the bore of the barrel is about half an inch. The post now alone remains in this locality as a memorial of the tragic occurrence which happened here in 1782.

A short drive then brought the excursionists to

QUEEN HOO HALL,

which stands on the spur of a hill and commands a splendid view from the front to the south-east, and also south-westerly. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Arthur Gray, the tenant of the farmhouse, as it is now, the party went over the interior, and remarked with interest the open well in the cellar, the great old-fashioned fireplace in the kitchen, the curious fresco in an upper room, etc.

Mr. W. F. Andrews read some notes on the place, prepared by Mr. G. Aylott, of Hitchin, to the following effect:—Queen Hoo Hall is

usually spoken of as a fragment of a larger house erected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and used by her as a hunting lodge. No drawings or ground-plan of this house appear to exist showing other than the portion still remaining. That the residential portion of this house has at any time been much more extensive than at present is very doubtful, standing as it does on high ground, the land sloping away to the valley of the Mimram. The front of the house, with its two gables surmounted with three Tudor terminals, seems complete in itself, and the brickwork does not appear to have been disturbed in any part of it since the day it left the hands of the builder, although additions have been made at the back of the house. The upper lengths of the chimneys at one time were probably of the round and twisted type usually found on Tudor buildings. These most likely became decayed, and were replaced by diagonal seventeenth-century lengths. The stables, too, have disappeared, with other offices. Queen Hoo has inspired the artist and the novelist, and each in his own branch has given his impressions of it. Dealing with former owners of the place, the writer stated that the Butlers of Woodhall held Queen Hoo Hall during two or three generations. This family of Botelers [or Butlers] trace their descent from Theobald Boteler who attended Henry II into Ireland, and had the butlership of Ireland conferred upon him in 1177, whereby he and his successors were to attend the Kings of England at their Coronation and present them with the first cup of wine. Sir John Boteler held Woodhall in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and Sir Henry, his second son, married as his second wife, Alice, daughter of Edward Pultor, of Broadfield, Cottered. Ralph Boteler, of Queen Hoo, the fourth son of Sir Henry Boteler of Woodhall, was the first owner of this house the writer had been able to trace. He died in 1644, at the age of 65. His gravestone is under the east window, in Tewin Churchyard, and is of interest by reason of the manner of spelling Queen Hoo given thereon, viz., both as "Queno" and "Quinow." The parish register of Tewin dates from 1559. The first entry in the name of Butler records the baptism of Thomas, infant son of Buckingham Butler, but this family was in no way connected with the Butlers of Woodhall. This family sprang from a George Butler, of Stotfold, Beds, who purchased the manor of Tewinbury about 1575.

The next part of the journey was past Nancy Bury, over Bull's Green, by Datchworth Green, to

DATCHWORTH CHURCH.

Here the Rev. A. Amos, rector of the parish, read a paper printed on pp. 68–71 of these *Transactions*.

Another drive took the party to Knebworth Park, in which is

KNEBWORTH CHURCH.

This church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Thomas à Becket, is beautifully situate in the Park within a short distance of Knebworth House. (*Vide* pp. 72–77.)

On leaving the church the party walked to Knebworth House, which was kindly thrown open by Lord Strathcona, and here Miss C. Isherwood read a paper[1] upon the past and present owners of the estate, and a description of the mansion and the innumerable treasures contained in it. After a pleasant drive by way of Codicote, the party next stopped at

WELWYN,

where, on the Rectory lawn, the Rev. A. C. Headlam and Mrs. Headlam very hospitably provided tea, for which, on the proposition of the Rev. J. W. Lewis, seconded by the Rev. W. d'A. Crofton, a cordial vote of thanks was passed. Mr. Headlam pointed out the avenue of limes in his grounds planted by Dr. Young, the author of "Night Thoughts," when rector of Welwyn. Dr. Young did not live in the Rectory, but in The Guessens in the village, where his son was visited by Dr. Johnson. Near the head of the avenue is an inscription to Dr. Young, composed by another Rector, Mr. Johnes-Knight (1812), in Latin, of the ordinary eulogistic character. From his grounds Mr. Headlam led the way to St. Mary's Hall, where there was an exhibition of the Court rolls of the Manor of Welwyn, some stone and bronze implements, Roman pottery, etc.

Mr. Headlam said their earliest records were a stone implement found on the Danesbury estate and a flint arrow-head of the Stone age. To the north-west of the church, on rising ground, a good deal of Roman pottery had been discovered, and also a Roman coin in his own garden, and he thought Welwyn was on the site of a Roman-British village. In Saxon times that parish and all the parishes around were in the middle of the Great Hitch Wood, which extended from Hatfield to Hitchin. There was a name very common in the parish—Welsh. Wilshere, Welche's Farm, and all similar names were probably from the same original, and represented Welsh, the name given by the Saxons to the British, which meant strangers. The "Frythe" would probably be derived from a word meaning a clearing in a wood. Welge was the earliest form to be found in Domesday Book of Welwyn, but he was informed the original name was Celtic, and it had lived on to the present day. A legend relating to the place (found in Chauncy) was that the massacre of the Danes in 1002 began there, and in Danesbury Park a large number of dead

[1] This paper, to which a condensed report would do scant justice, is published in full in the *Hertfordshire Mercury* of August 30th, 1902.—Ed.

men's bones had been discovered, thrown together in heaps. He could find no evidence of any value in support of the statement in Chauncy, and he imagined it was a bit of the false antiquarianism of which the seventeenth century was very fond. The name "Danesbury" was quite modern, and was first used by one of the Blake family. The manor of Welwyn was granted to the Church by Edward the Confessor, and had remained ever since in the possession of the Rector for the time being. The manor of Mardley Bury belonged to the Lytton family, and that of Lockleys to the Derings. The Rector, as lord of the manor, possesses the manor rolls—a record, but not continuous, from the time of Edward I to the present day. Extracts from these were given. In the reign of Henry VI "Margaret Felde, Agnes Pake, and Johanna Power are common breakers of the hedges of the lord and his tenants, carrying away wood without leave: they are therefore fined 2*d.* each." Later on the jury say "that William Fyssh of Welwes depastures the pastures of the lord and his tenants in divers places with 2 cattles and 2 pigs. Therefore he is fined 3*d.*" "That the Rector by right should repair the bridge for carts called the 'Persons bregge' and he had not repaired it: he shall therefore amend it before the next court." In Dr. Young's time (rector from 1730 to 1765) Welwyn became a great centre of fashion. There is a very inferior chalybeate spring that was made the excuse for Welwyn becoming a fashionable resort; and at one time, he believed, the place almost rivalled Tunbridge Wells. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a chancel with south aisle, nave, south porch, tower, etc. The chancel is Early English, but the windows on the south side of the chancel are Decorated; and the great body of the church is Perpendicular. It has been considerably mutilated and spoilt. The chancel is singularly out of keeping with the rest of the church, and the whole church is unworthy of the parish. They had a rood-screen, but, unfortunately, it is not in its proper place. In the chancel there is an ancient piscina; and a piscina at the east end of the south aisle of the nave shows that there has been a chapel there.

Time allowed of only a very short visit to the church, where the altar frontal, worked by Lady Betty Young, wife of Dr. Young, was exhibited. It was embroidered in silk on a linen ground, enriched with gold thread. Recently it was transferred to white silk damask, and a rich orphreys and super-frontal were added. The registers date from 1558. There are memorials to the families of Cuyler, Gelsthorp, Meade, Le Blanc, Wilshere, and Blake.

A final drive of six or seven miles brought the party back to Hertford about 7 o'clock, when they dispersed.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1902.

Membership of the Society.—The Council, in presenting to the members the fourth Annual Report and Balance-Sheet, are still able to report an increase in the membership, the total at the end of the year being 146, as against 137 at the close of 1901. During the year eight members have resigned from various causes, and two, the Right Rev. the Bishop of St. Albans (one of our Vice-Presidents) and Mr. Eli Bretton, have passed away.

The Council.—During the year the two vacancies upon the Council (Executive Committee) have been filled by the election of Mr. J. Webster Kirkham and Mr. Howard Warner.

In accordance with Rule 7 the following five members of the Council, Messrs. Herbert G. Fordham, J. L. Glasscock, H. R. H. Gosselin-Grimshawe, John A. Hunt, and the Rev. H. A. Lipscomb, M.A., retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election. The annual meeting will be asked to re-elect these gentlemen, and also to re-elect the Editor, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Balance-Sheet.—During the past year the account for printing Part 1 of the Transactions has been paid, and as this was undertaken solely in the anticipation that all members would order a copy at the low figure charged to them, which is the cost price to the Society, it is rather disappointing that so few have responded, and thus assisted in reducing this expense. This part is necessary to complete Vol. I, which is now concluded. There is an adverse balance of £8 2*s.* 7*d.*, and the account for Part 3 is still outstanding, although this will be cleared off early in the year. The Council have resolved on effecting certain economies, such as fixing the amount we are justified in spending on the Transactions, restricting the expenditure to a definite sum, etc., and earmarking a sum per annum that will in three years clear off the deficit. It must be remembered in this connection that the Society possesses as assets a library with cases and fittings valued at close upon £100, a stock of Transactions worth at cost price about £60, and a collection of local views, maps, photographs, slides, etc., valued at £25.

Annual Meeting and Excursions.—During the year the Society has held its fourth annual meeting and three Summer excursions. The former was, by the kindness of Mr. Chas. A. Christie, held at Esdale Hall, Hoddesdon, and was very well attended. Our President, Mr. Abel H. Smith, M.P., occupied the chair and gave the opening address. Mr. J. A. Hunt read a paper upon "Rawdon House, Hoddesdon," and Mr. W. Frampton Andrews gave an account of a visit to "A Ruined Hertfordshire Church" (Chisfield, near Stevenage). The Hon. Secretary exhibited, by means of the lantern (kindly lent by the Rev. H. P. Waller), views of all the places visited by the Society during the previous year, and briefly described them. The Society's thanks are due to the Local Committee, Messrs. J. A. Hunt, F. R. Gurney, and W. Whitley, through whose efforts the success of the meeting was very largely due. A good collection of local antiquities, views, paintings, etc., were exhibited, and thanks are specially due to Messrs. F. G. Alington, C. A. Christie, J. A. Hunt, Howard Warner, and W. Whitley, the Churchwardens, the Committee of the Mutual Improvement Society, and others for the loan of these.

The excursions were held in June, July, and August, and visits were paid to the Rye House, Stanstead Bury, Anstey Castle, Clibborn's Post, Queen Hoo Hall, Knebworth House, the churches of Stanstead St. Margarets, Stanstead Abbotts, Hunsdon, Gilston, Aspenden, Layston, Wyddial, Anstey, Bramfield, Datchworth, Knebworth, and Welwyn. The Council tender their thanks to the clergy of the churches specified for their courtesy and kindness in permitting the Society to inspect their churches, registers, church plate, etc. The Society's thanks are also due to Mr. Spencer Trower and Miss Trower, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, the Rev. H. P. and the Misses Sanderson, the Rev. R. O. T. and Mrs. Thorpe, and the Rev. A. C. and Mrs. Headlam for their most acceptable hospitality offered to the members at the above excursions, and to the owners and occupiers of other places visited. Special thanks are due to Lord Strathcona, K.C.M.G., for throwing open the house and grounds at Knebworth to the members, and it may be mentioned that as insufficient time was allowed to see the latter, Lord Strathcona has kindly consented to the Society viewing these on some future occasion. The pleasure of the excursions was enhanced by the papers read by the clergy, by members, and by friends, and the Council can only regret that financial reasons alone prevent their printing all of these in the Transactions. A selection, invidious though it may seem, had to be made for this purpose, but a summary of the others will be found printed as fully as possible in the report of the excursions.

Layston Church.—Acting in accordance with Rule 3, section *b*, the Council passed a resolution, or rather recommendation, with reference to the above. This was submitted to the members who assembled in the partly ruined fabric in July, but owing to a statement being made

(which has since been negatived by a parish meeting) that a local desire existed to preserve and restore the church to its ancient use, nothing definite was decided upon, and the recommendation fell to the ground.

The Council cannot but feel it is deplorable that no steps have been taken to prevent the wanton destruction, of which palpable evidence was and is visible. The collapse of the roofs is within measurable distance, involving the destruction of the font, memorials, etc. A fine peal of four bells hang silent in rapidly decaying frames, the downfall of which would probably hasten the fall of the noble Early English tower, which is said to be now in a very unsafe condition.

The Tylers' Guildhall (now "The Cooper's Arms"), Hitchin.—An interesting original contribution under this head appears in the current issue of the Transactions, but the Council feel that an acknowledgment should be made of the care taken to preserve the features of this ancient building, which are unique in the county, by the owners, Messrs. McMullen & Co., of Hertford. They have been most courteous in replying to suggestions for the preservation of the original work. Our member, Mr. G. Aylott, has also kept the alterations constantly under his eye, and we have thus been enabled to follow precisely what was being done. It is to be wished that other members, when churches and buildings of antiquarian interest are under 'restoration' or alteration, would communicate the result of the operations to the Hon. Secretary.

Framed Notices of the Society.—During the year the Council have issued some twenty of the above, which they have been able to obtain permission to permanently exhibit in Libraries, Reading Rooms, and Institutions in East Herts. Notwithstanding that the Society has been five years in existence, there are still many places where its aims and objects are unknown. Finds of antiquities are constantly being made and are unrecorded by us or anyone, whereas if the Society were better known it is probable we should be communicated with to the benefit of the finder and of local archæology.

Publications.—The following Transactions have been issued: Parts 1, 2, 3, Vol. I, 1899–1901. The price of these to members is 2*s.* 6*d.* each for Parts 1 and 2, and 5*s.* for Part 3. The Index to Vol. I, 1*s.* Cases for binding, 1*s.* 6*d.* The following local works are also offered to members at the prices affixed, but as in some cases but few copies remain early application is desirable:—

Norden's Description of Hertfordshire, 1598. With life, portrait, and bibliography of Norden. Map, title, and arms in facsimile. Small paper, 7*s.* 6*d.*; large paper, 15*s.*

Handbook to Hertfordshire Memorial Brasses. Small paper, 5*s.*; large paper, 10*s.*

Hall's Place-Names in Hertfordshire, interleaved; 3*s.*

A Hertfordshire St. George, or the story of Piers Shonks and the Pelham Dragon; 1*s.*

A Catalogue of Hertfordshire Maps, in three parts. Part 1, now ready, 1*s.* 6*d.*

Archæological Library.—The arrangement, inconvenient alike for members and the Hon. Secretary, whereby the Society's Library was housed at the latter's residence, is, it is to be hoped, but temporary. When the Society's funds admit it is most desirable that a permanent home for its books, prints, and objects of antiquarian interest should be obtained.

Hertfordshire Parish Registers Society.—The Council are informed by Mr. W. P. W. Phillimore that it is proposed to commence a systematic printing of the Parish Registers throughout the County when a sufficient number of subscribers (not less than 100) at one guinea per annum have been obtained. Two Registers would be undertaken each year, and as only a sufficient number would be printed to supply subscribers the volumes will speedily acquire an enhanced value. The Council cordially recommend the project to those interested in Hertfordshire genealogy.

Archæological Notes and Queries.—This column in the *Hertfordshire Mercury*, which appears the first Saturday in each month, is now in the fifth year of its existence. In this connection attention is drawn to the articles on Hertfordshire Place-Names by the Rev. Professor Skeat, LL.D., D.C.L., etc. (whose reputation as an Anglo-Saxon scholar is worldwide), which are now appearing therein. The Professor very generously offered his services in elucidating the derivation of our county place-names, hitherto dealt with (save by the Rev. H. Hall, M.A.) in a very unscientific manner, and the Council gladly and gratefully accepted the offer. Arrangements will be made at the conclusion to reprint the articles in volume form.

Explorations.—While no systematic excavations have been undertaken by, or been brought to the knowledge of, the Society in East Herts during the past year, it is desirable to record a certain amount of experimental research on the site of the ancient Castle of Anstey. The foundations of but one small building have at present been discovered on the chief mound, but a more extensive systematic excavation may reveal the remains of others. An account of what has been attempted with limited means and time will be given by

Mr. R. T. Andrews at the annual meeting. By the efforts of Mr. W. F. Andrews and Mr. H. P. Pollard, the foundations of the long ruined and lost churches of Wakeley and Berkesdon have, it is thought, been discovered, but until the spade and shovel have removed the accumulated soil it is useless to speculate.

The Council are considering the desirability of reopening the Exploration Fund for the purpose of employing labour to uncover and excavate the above sites, and a notice requesting contributions thereto will probably be issued in the Spring.

Miscellanea.—Under this head reference should be made to the Society's collection of **Lantern Slides**, which now number over 200. Thanks are again accorded to Mrs. G. W. Sworder and Mr. A. Whitford Anderson for the loan of negatives for this purpose. It is to be hoped that ere long the Society may possess a good portable Lantern for use with these.—**Local Prints.** The Society's collection of prints now number 1,864. These are not kept with the Society's Library, but at the Museum in Fore Street, Hertford.

Archæological Union.—With this issue is enclosed a copy of the Index to archæological papers for 1901, by which members can see recorded all the best papers on antiquarian subjects that have appeared in that year.

Excursions, 1903.—During the year now entered upon the Society hopes to pay visits to the following places :—

13th Excursion (June). Eastwick, Widford (Church and Tumulus), and Much Hadham (Church and Palace).

14th Excursion (July). Buckland, Barkway, and Barley.

15th Excursion (August). Hertingfordbury (Church and Park), Tewin, and Digswell.

In conclusion the Council would continue to urge the desirability of an increase in the membership. Much work in research and printing remains to be done when our finances permit; there are numerous MSS. at the British Museum and Record Office which we ought to print and issue free to our members, but to do this we must double our numbers, by no means an impossible ambition in the district we cover.

BALANCE SHEET, 1902.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1901	9	5	4
1 Subscription for 1900	0	10	6
5 Subscriptions for 1901	2	12	6
137 do. 1902	71	18	6
Sale of Transactions	4	14	6
Due to Treasurer	8	2	7
	£97	3	11

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Subscription to Archæological Congress	1	0	0
Lantern Slides and Photos	5	14	7
Printing and Stationery	21	12	6
Printing 400 copies of Transactions, Part 3	44	4	8
Expenses of Annual Meeting, Conversazione, and Excursions	6	12	6
Library, Binding, and Insurance	8	4	2
Treasurer's and Secretary's Postages, and sundry expenses	7	17	6
Exploration Expenses	1	18	0
	£97	3	11

Compared with the books and vouchers and found correct,

J. R. COCKS, *Hon. Auditor.*

Br 39c

East Herts Archæological Society.

TRANSACTIONS.

VOL. II, PART II.

1903.

HERTFORD:
PRINTED BY STEPHEN AUSTIN & SONS, LIMITED.

1904

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PRINTED BY STEPHEN AUSTIN & SONS, LIMITED.

1904

HARVARD COLLEGE
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LIBRARY
J. A. Lowell fund

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Hon. Secretary:

W. B. Gerish, Esq., Ivy Lodge, Bishop's Stortford.

This Society, founded in 1898, now numbers one hundred and seventy members, with a strong Representative Council and Executive Committee. Gentlemen (and Ladies) desirous of becoming Members must be proposed and seconded by Members, a list of whom can be obtained of the Hon. Secretary. Their names will then be submitted to the Council for election at the next meeting.

The Annual Subscription of half a guinea entitles Members to receive the "Transactions" issued annually, and to attend, with the privilege of bringing a friend, the Summer Excursions, of which three are held each year, in June, July, and August, and all other meetings of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to furnish intending members with any further particulars relative to the Society and its work.

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NOTE.

As the matter contained in the papers contributed may sometimes be of a more or less controversial character, the Council wish it to be understood that they do not necessarily endorse all the statements made by the writers.

THE CHESHUNT INCLOSURE AWARD.

To many persons, even local residents, the Cheshunt Inclosure Award is unknown at the present time, and to those who are cognisant of its existence it is surprising how little they know about the Award or its object, although the document is only a century old. Some few persons who are personally concerned, or affected by suffering at some time from an encroachment on their property, the stopping up or diverting of an ancient footpath, or right of way, do really take a spasmodic interest in it, but the majority of residents are indifferent to its very existence.

The "Award or Instrument in Writing" was made in pursuance of a local Act of Parliament passed in the 39th George III, cap. 75 (1799), entitled—"An Act for Dividing, Allotting, and Inclosing the Open and Common Fields, Common Lammas Meadows, and a certain Common called Cheshunt Common, within the Parish of Cheshunt, in the County of Hertford"; and consists of MS. of some 167 pages of parchment, with nine plans on vellum, the whole bound in rough calf, measuring 14 inches wide by 18½ inches deep and 1½ inches in thickness, and lettered on the cover. The plans in themselves are a work of art, the colouring is perfect, and the lettering chiefly Italic and German text, evidently the work of a master hand. They are remarkable for accuracy and artistic finish, and are each drawn to a scale of chains.

The plans, the declarations, and 86 pages of the Award are impressed with a stamp duty of 15*s.*, while p. 1 bears an impress of 25*s.*, the sum-total of the stamp duty amounting to £65. The whole of the MS. is neatly executed, and has double-ruled margins of vermilion.

The contents may briefly be summarised thus:—

Index to the Proprietors' names to whom allotments were made.

Sworn Declarations of the Commissioners and Surveyors appointed under the Act.

The Preamble, followed by a detailed description of the roads, bridle-ways, and paths set out, then a lengthy description of the allotments awarded, with their respective boundaries, closing

orders or directions by the Commissioners, and a schedule of the 183 cottages entitled to depasture certain cattle during a portion of the year on the Common Allotment of 100 acres, with an array of signatures and seals, followed by the plans before referred to.

The Award is dated the 14th May, 1804, and was enrolled in the King's Bench on the 27th February, 1806.

The Enrolment (No. 257) is on long narrow strips of parchment, rudely bound up with the other enrolments of 1806, the plans being loose; it can be seen at the Record Office, Chancery Lane, but cannot vie with the Award in my possession for style or finish.

The object or purpose of the Award is clearly set forth in the Act before referred to, copies of which Act it is now difficult to obtain.

The Act recites, amongst other things, that there were within the Parish of Cheshunt "several Open and Common fields and Common Lammas Meadows containing together about 1,555 acres, and also a certain Common called Cheshunt Common, containing about 1186 acres," making together 2,741 acres or thereabouts:—

"And that there were within the said Parish several Messuages, Cottages, Tenements, Tofts, Homesteads, and old inclosed Lands, containing 5,375 acres or thereabouts, belonging to various Persons having or claiming to have Right of Common in and over the said Open Common Fields, Common Lammas Meadows, and the Common called Cheshunt Common aforesaid," besides certain rights attached to the Impropriator of the Rectory of Cheshunt, the Patron, and Vicar of Cheshunt.

And that "the Lands in the said Open and Common Fields and Common Lammas Meadows lie so dispersed and intermixed that the same cannot be commodiously or advantageously enjoyed; and the same, as also the said Common called Cheshunt Common, are capable of great improvement by an Inclosure, and it would be for the advantage of all persons interested therein if the same were divided and allotted to and amongst the several Persons interested therein, according to their respective Properties, Rights of Common, and other Interests, and such Allotments inclosed," etc.

Three Commissioners were appointed under the Act to carry out its provisions; they were probably strangers to the place, two coming from London and one from Lewknor in Oxfordshire, any two of them being a majority, and provision was made for filling vacancies occurring by death or otherwise. The Surveyor appointed under the Act was Mr. Henry Crawter of Cheshunt, an ancestor of the present firm of Crawters, Surveyors, etc., and such true and correct survey and admeasurement was directed to be made of the

said open and common fields, etc., as the Commissioners should in their judgment deem necessary to be surveyed for the purposes of the Act.

The Commissioners and Surveyor had each to take and subscribe an oath to faithfully and honestly execute and perform the several trusts, powers, etc., vested and reposed in them, "according to equity and good conscience, and without favour or Affection, Prejudice or Partiality to any Person or Persons whomsoever."

The persons entitled to or claiming rights of common were required to send in their claims within a prescribed time in writing to the Commissioners, who thereupon entered them in a book which was open to inspection.

The Commissioners met from time to time at the Green Dragon Inn, and adjudicated upon the various claims. (This house was at that time the usual place for convening public meetings other than vestry meetings, which were of course held at the Parish Church.)

The Act provided for persons who were dissatisfied to appeal to the Assizes or to resort to arbitration.

I have the Book of Claims in my possession, and other private papers relating to the drafting of the Award, but I have not yet seen any minutes of the Commissioners' meetings.

The Commissioners were empowered to suspend or totally extinguish all, or any part, of the right of common, and all other rights and interest in, upon, or over, the said lands and grounds.

The Commissioners were to set out public roads and highways, private roads, and ways and footpaths, in, and over, any of the lands and grounds within the said parish, except gardens, orchards, plantations, or other private grounds.

They were to award to the persons, Lords or Ladies of the Manors in the parish of Cheshunt, so much of the said common as should in their judgment be an adequate compensation and satisfaction for such their rights and interest in, or to the soil of the said common.

They were also to deal with the owners of the rectorial and vicarial tithes, and of old inclosed lands subject to the payment of tithes.

Further, they were to set out and allot unto the Lord of the Manor of Cheshunt, the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of the said parish for the time being, respectively, to be held by them and their successors for ever, such distinct parts and parcels of the said common, or in one allotment not exceeding in the whole 100 acres, exclusive of all roads and ways in and over the same, to be inclosed in such manner and in such proportions

as the Commissioners should by their Award direct. The said Lord of the Manor, Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers, and their successors, were from time to time to stand seized thereof for the use of certain occupiers of cottages as in the said Act is set forth. These cottages were to be described in the Award with their respective rents, and the number and nature of the cattle to be kept by each of them, and from what respective times.

After the several divisions and allotments before mentioned had been set out and allotted, the Commissioners were to set out and allot the residue and remainder of the said lands or grounds, unto and amongst the several proprietors of the messuages, cottages, tofts, lands, and persons interested therein, in such quantities, shares, and proportions, and in such manner as they should adjudge and determine to be a full compensation and satisfaction for the several and respective messuages, lands, grounds, rights of common, and other rights and interests therein.

The Commissioners had also certain powers with regard to exchange of lands, etc.

Within the space of six months after the allotment of lands to be inclosed should be completed (or as soon after as conveniently might be), the Commissioners were to draw up the Award in writing, which should express the quantity in statute measure of acres, roods, etc., contained in all the said lands thereby intended to be inclosed, exchanged, or otherwise dealt with. Such Award to be final, binding, and conclusive upon all persons interested in the said division and inclosure.

The Commissioners in making the Award set out fifty-two public roads, highways, private roads, ways, and footpaths, in, through, over, or upon the lands and grounds directed to be divided and inclosed, and discontinued or diverted certain footpaths, directed the repairs of the roads, and awarded the herbage thereof. Gravel and sand allotments were made to the Surveyor of Highways, and allotments of manorial rights to the Lord of the Manor of Cheshunt, and to the Vicar and Rector for glebe and tithe. The 100 acres were allotted to the Lord of the Manor of Cheshunt, the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers for the time being, and their successors, to stand seized of, and to have the sole and exclusive management of, for the use of all the *occupiers* of houses or cottages within the said parish already having right of common, without more than one rood of land belonging to and used with the same as a garden or orchard, (the yearly rent of which did not exceed £6 at the time of passing the said Act), without paying anything for such use.

The occupiers of the said cottages were entitled under the Award to turn out upon the said allotment of 100 acres "on the 12th May in every year either one horse or two cows or other neat cattle or seven sheep," which cattle were to be taken out of the allotment on the 2nd February following.

The Commissioners then set out in detail their Awards of different portions of land to the several proprietors interested, other than the cottagers who were entitled to use the 100 acres.

A road surveyor was appointed under the Act, and was required to make the roads within two years, or at most within three years, failing which, he was liable to a fine. The roads were to be fenced off, and trees were only permitted to be planted at a distance of fifty yards.

Such is the outline of the Act and of the Award made thereunder. The latter was, conformably with the Act, deposited in a tin box in the Parish Church, and after the passing and adoption of the Act 13 and 14 Victoria, c. 57, it was transferred to the custody of the Vestry Clerk of the Parish of Cheshunt, where it now remains, so that all persons interested in the said inclosure might inspect it.

Reference has been made to the Common Allotment of 100 acres reserved for the benefit of the cottagers, and it may be interesting to many to know that the cottagers, by reason of the extent of the parish or their inability to keep cattle, failed to derive the benefit intended by the Act, and the herbage was consumed by cattle of persons having no right to depasture the same.

But this state of affairs was, after a few years, altered, for in December, 1813, another local Act was obtained at considerable cost, authorising the inclosure of the 100 acres, and the appointment of the Lord of the Manor of Cheshunt, the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Cheshunt as Trustees of this Common Allotment, and empowering them to let the land on lease for a term not exceeding 21 years, and annually to "pay, distribute, and divide in equal proportions the net surplus of the rents, issues, and profits" arising therefrom, among the occupiers of the houses and cottages set forth in the Schedule to the said Award. This distribution now takes place annually in March.

CHARLES W. COOK.

ANSTEY CASTLE.

Excavations on the Site of Anstey Castle.

On October 17th, 1902, a visit was paid to the above site by Messrs. Andrews and Gerish with the object of endeavouring to find some remains of the old Castle; in this they were only slightly successful, and therefore on the 30th of the same month Mr. Andrews paid a second visit to see if anything more could be found, and the results of his labours are as follows:—

On the first visit some prospecting was done, and two or three holes were dug in places where an iron sounding-rod appeared to indicate solid foundations of walls or stonework, but nothing definite was discovered until nearly the end of the day, when an old man (Bradford) said that the sons of the former tenant (Bates) spent some days digging about the top of the large mound, and at last thought that they had found a brick wall nearly 3 feet long, and he indicated about the spot where he believed it to be. On recommencing the work it was thought advisable to follow up this trail, and a few flints were encountered which gave promise of success. From this point Mr. Andrews commenced excavations on his second visit, and found more flint-work, and it appeared that, if the youthful explorers had persevered at this part, they also might have accomplished something more than they did seventeen or eighteen years before, for they were only about 2 feet from it. This excavation is on the east side of the castle mound, and about 1 foot below the original surface. Here a rough-faced wall of flints (A) was discovered, and followed towards the south-west for a little over 10 feet, when it turned to the south-east at nearly a right angle. The outer face of a flint wall (none of the flints on the faces had been cut or chipped at all) for 13 ft. 6 ins. was then excavated. It was found that the other end of the first wall had also turned towards the south-east for a length of 8 feet, and then stopped and turned parallel to the first wall for 1 yard only, giving the impression that it intended to go right across and join the second length at once; but not so, it again turned to the south-east and ran 2 ft. 4 ins., and then regained its former direction,

and at last joined the other side in about the length of 6 ft. 8 ins. This gives a roughly shaped quadrangle[1] with one corner cut out and 14 ft. 5 ins. across from the north to south angles. No part of these walls (which were about 1 ft. 6 ins. in depth) had any indication that they had ever formed a portion of a larger building, as no extensions or parts of extensions appeared across the trench; the boulder-clay also came close up to the faces of the walls and was quite solid. It was thought by some that the mounds (especially the large one) had been formed by the material taken out of the moats when they were cut, but this theory is believed to have been entirely disproved by the excavations. A spot had been selected at the first visit to this site at about 8 feet west of the steps leading up the side of the mound, where it was thought that the iron probe had found something hard, and therefore a hole was opened some 8 feet long. In this was a top layer of ordinary soil about 6 inches thick, then a foot of boulder-clay, then an irregular row or layer of flints which soon disappeared and did not continue the whole length of the trench, and then the boulder-clay again. So it was no use to try deeper, as not only here but everywhere about the top of the mound this was the invariable order, and in every case the clay had never, so far as could be judged, been in any way disturbed.[2] In fact, instead of the mounds having been formed out of the moats, the moats had been cut out of the natural soil of the district through the clay and into the chalk. The whole of the hill-tops of Anstey and the district are capped with the boulder-clay, varying in thickness from a few inches to five, six, or more feet, then a layer of flints, and then the chalk, although there are places where there are but a few inches of top soil, and then the chalk. A line (B) taken from south to north from the last-named excavation, and a trench opened upon it for a distance of about 25 feet right in the centre of the mound, gave top soil of 15 inches, flints 6 or 7 inches, and then the clay *in sitû*. Although part of this trench seemed to show that a certain amount of the clay had been moved, yet it did not promise anything, and was not tried further, except with the iron bar, which gave no results, but only indications of its having gone through the clay and found the chalk. It was now thought best to try and find by means of the bars whether there was any possibility of walls existing in other parts of the castle mound, and so north and south of the small building the earth was probed

[1] See plan of the foundations.

[2] The artificial mounds at Bishop's Stortford, Bennington, and elsewhere are usually formed of clay, as ordinary earth would be useless for the purpose.

almost invariably 3 feet deep, and in all other directions about the area of the plateau, but with absolutely no result. The small mound (C) and the whole area of the orchard (D), which really forms a third mound, were tried in like manner, but nothing was met with. Therefore it was felt that until some much larger scheme of excavation could be initiated, with more funds at the Society's disposal for the purpose, and perhaps from some other point, it was useless to try further at present, as from 100 to 150 holes had been made to test the site everywhere with no result to warrant continuance and success. It may be interesting to state that wherever the top soil was moved there were found abundant fragments of plain tile, showing that the small building, the walls of which were found, was covered with them; a few pieces of clunch stone, varying from 3 to 6 inches in diameter, some of it very roughly axed, were amongst the débris. Many small fragments of pottery, probably Roman or Romano-British, which had been either cinerary urns or water-jars, some of which had the characteristic thumb-markings, were also met with. The men engaged said that at Nuthampstead to the north, and in other places where they had worked about the district, similar pottery was always found. There were also two enormous knuckle-bones, which were much too large for a sheep, but too small for a calf, several other bones, believed to be human, with a pair of double teeth in a portion of jawbone; but no regular interment appeared to have taken place, nor could any direction be assigned for the rest of the bones, nor was there any evidence of cremation. From the boulder-clay were obtained a part of a belemnite, two (so-called) thunderbolts, and some small pieces of septaria or clay stones such as are frequently found about that part of the county. At the school (where the governess encourages the children to bring in any objects of interest) there is a very fine belemnite, and a perfect neolithic flint axe in capital preservation.

There are two other matters to be mentioned, each of which may indicate the method that should be pursued in the future to attain the object that our Society has in view with respect to this castle. An old man (Thomas Martin) gave some information about there being a pair of iron doors in the mud of the moat just opposite the dipping-place at E, and which spot was about 45 feet west of the steps up the side of the mound. He said that about forty years ago the moat, at what is now a dipping-place (F), was cleaned out; this could only have been during a very dry summer when the water was low, and that he saw these doors upright in the side of the bank. They were about 5 feet high and from 4 to 5 feet

wide, and appeared very thick, and he was set to clean them, which he did; they were hung on strong hinges, and had a heavy bar across them, and fastened, he thought, with a padlock.[1] The then farmer wanted to open them, but in some way or other word was sent to, "so it was said, Government," and word came back that they were not to be opened under any consideration. Of course it is a question whether the landlord was not the one that interfered, perhaps from a fear of too strongly exciting the superstition of the inhabitants at that time, but the members of our Society, who live in this more prosaic age, would no doubt have no such absurd ideas, and this might prove to be an entrance to at least the dungeons of this castle, "the deepest dungeon beneath the castle moat," which has in the past been denominated a "den of robbers," and may prove to be one key to unlock the secrets that lie buried in this place. But a dry summer must be secured to help forward any endeavour in this direction. With reference to this, there is the well-known (at least in this district) legend of the "Devil and the Anstey Fiddler," and how the latter went into a subterranean passage at Cave Gate, which was said to communicate with Anstey Castle, and was never more seen; but Mr. Gerish has told the story of this.[2] Information was also obtained from Martin that in the fields in several places between Cave Gate and the Castle, not only does the corn fail to grow to the same state of perfection in the summer-time as the rest of the crops, but that in the winter-time in the same spots the snow melts the quickest, and will not lie so long as on the other part of the fields. If this is a fact, then it points to a great deal of truth in the tradition that there is a passage-way from Cave Gate to the Castle still in existence, and that if by careful observation in winter and another summer these two facts could be substantiated, and the spots marked, excavation upon the site might reveal what truth there was in the legend. Other persons have said that there are certain parts of the fields which sound more hollow than the others, and that stones and earth have been heard to fall, as it were, into a hollow place below. If such a way does exist, it may be the means of leading or letting us into more secrets of this place than are now thought of, and of which even tradition is silent.

One thing is certain, that the site of this castle and the other mounds has been in the past a place of enormous strength, and that

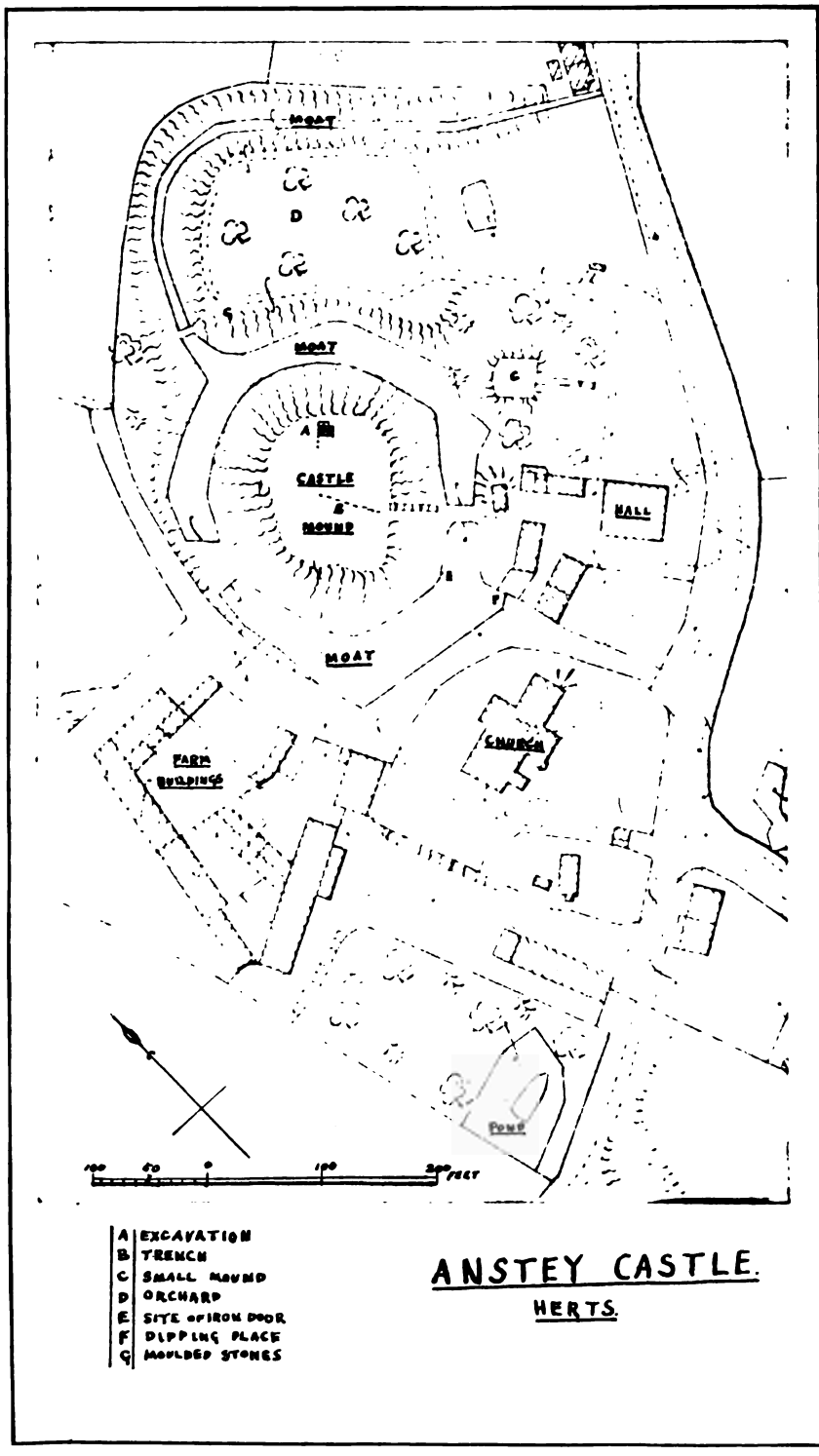
[1] See plan showing supposed position of door.
[2] "The Anstey Fiddler: a Legend of Cave Gate."

the whole has been formed with great wisdom and tact and the taking of every advantage in the natural resources of the situation.

Nothing has been said in this paper on the historical aspect of the question, but only facts related as they occurred. One question alone has not been satisfactorily answered—Where was the earth removed to which was taken out of these enormously large and deep moats? it may have been spread mostly in the form of chalk upon the surface of the fields for the purpose of lightening the clay, and making it more workable and productive. Certainly the clay contains much chalk, which is to be expected where the clay is comparatively shallow and the surface of the chalk so near.

One thing has been omitted in this description which should have been mentioned before, i.e. that at the moat at the north-east part of the orchard (at G) were found three fragments of worked and moulded stone. Two of these were evidently parts of window heads of the Transitional or Decorated Period, and the third was part of a window mullion; this was 12 inches thick from inside to out, and could scarcely have been used at the church, but is more likely to have formed some part of the castle. The situation of these stones is against their having been part of the church, as they lie at a point the very furthest from it, and there is nothing left in that building to correspond with them. Information was also given that several stones of the same character are now down at the Rectory, half a mile to the east. Several photographs were taken of the excavations, the site of the castle, of these stones, and of the chalk-pit at Cave Gate.

R. T. Andrews.


MOAT
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A EXCAVATION
B TRENCH
C SMALL MOUND
D ORCHARD
E SITE OF IRON DOOR
F DIPPING PLACE
G MOULDED STONES
ANSTEY CASTLE.
HERTS.

THE ANSTEY FIDDLER: A LEGEND OF CAVE GATE.

In Anstey parish, by the side of the high road which leads to Barley, is an ancient chalk-pit, one face of which has been so long disused that no man now living can say when chalk was last dug therefrom. On the eastern face of the pit, now hidden by earth and rubbish, one is told, the sometime entrance to a subterranean passage existed. Caves somewhat similar were to be found, in the writer's recollection, at Cuffley, near Goff's Oak, in Cheshunt parish, where they had the reputation of being haunted, presumably by the ghosts of the highwaymen and others who once frequented them. About this once open cavern at Anstey a fearsome tale is woven in connection with the untimely fate of the local fiddler.

The precise date of the event which I am about to narrate it has not been possible to ascertain, but it would appear to be considerably before the year 1800, as elderly men remember their grandfathers telling them the story as if it had taken place considerably previous to their time, so if we, for want of any accurate data, suggested 1750, it would not perhaps be far wrong. Still, as folklorists, we need not be surprised to learn that the tragic event happened very much earlier, as it is believed that similar tales are ofttimes of considerable antiquity.

It would appear that at the date we are assuming the cave possessed a very unenviable repute. It had never been entered by even the boldest, and the general belief was that anyone venturing therein would never emerge alive. It was supposed to communicate with the Castle by a long and almost straight passage (the castle mounds are situate nearly a mile to the east) leading into the 'dungeons' of that 'adulterine' fortress, although if such a passage does exist it is doubtless merely a way of escape for the beleaguered garrison. The spot, although more generally known as Cave Gate (and as such marked on the Ordnance Map), had a more sinister appellation assigned to it by certain bolder spirits, who averred that it was one of the entrances to the abode of His Satanic Majesty.

One evening in the early autumn, after work for the day was over, the labourers were spending the hour or so before retiring for the night in their accustomed manner at "The Chequers," enjoying the twilight rest, the home-brewed, and the music from "Blind George's" fiddle. After a while the conversation turned, as it had often turned before, upon the subject of the cave, and while there were two or three who "didn't believe there was nothin' in 't," the majority agreed 't was a place to be avoided by anyone who was not a saint. This implication was rather resented by Blind George, whose morals were by no means of the best, and who being by this time considerably the worse for his frequent libations during the day, had become both quarrelsome and pot-valiant. Throwing his fiddle on the bench he swore that, blind as he was, accompanied by none, and with only his dog and fiddle, he would venture that very night to the uttermost end of the passage. Of course there were not wanting those who endeavoured to dissuade him from his foolhardy enterprise, but the majority dared him to venture. George's mind, however, was made up, so my informant said (although more probably it was but the obstinacy of the semi-intoxicated), and with his fiddle under his arm and guided by his dog, accompanied by those present, and speedily reinforced by half the people in the village, he made his way in the growing darkness to the pit. Arriving at what is now a field, but was then open land in which the chalk-pit is situated, the crowd hesitated on the margin, but the fiddler pushed his way past them, and dragging his dog with him, descended the side. Upon reaching the cave mouth, then nearly hidden by brambles and undergrowth, he shouted for assistance to clear him a way through. With considerable reluctance two or three of the younger men went to his help and tore and trampled down the briars, urging him all the while not to be so foolish. George in a fury turned upon them, cursing and swearing, and declaring that he would explore the passage, "although the Devil himself were at the end of it." He shouted out to the people to follow him above ground to the other end, guided by the sound of his fiddle. Stumbling across the fallen chalk and rubbish he disappeared in the black darkness of the cave, dragging with him, in spite of its whines and cries, his poor little cur. The men and women, boys and girls, rushed back to the road and listened intently for the sound of the fiddle, and in a few seconds a low weird strain came from beneath their very feet. With bated breath and scarce a whisper they followed the sound across the stubble and ploughed land (for there were

no hedges in those days to hinder progress) until they were nearly half-way to the castle hill, frowning gloomily in the distance. Then, all at once, the fiddling ceased, stopping with a shrill squeak which some likened to a dying scream. For several minutes they listened in intense silence; then with one accord ran back across the fields to the pit brink. There again all was still, but after a few moments gazing into the blackness, a faint noise was heard from the direction of the cave, which, becoming more and more distinct, suddenly revealed itself to be the fiddler's dog, *tailless and with every atom of its hair singed off.* On seeing the crowd, with a howl it dashed up the opposite side of the pit and disappeared in the darkness, never more, like its master, to be beheld by mortal eyes. But with this apparition the villagers had had enough of horrors, and without waiting for any further developments, they ran helter-skelter for their homes.

Early next morning, as soon as it was light, most of the village, which "ha'n't slept a wink all night," made its way to the pit again, but not a sign of George was to be seen. After some consultation together they decided, there and then, to fasten up the entrance to the cave, and sending for spades and some mortar, they heaped together flints and chalk rubble until the entrance was quite filled up. For many years afterwards no Ansteyite would venture by the pit after dark, and even to-day the spot is regarded with no favourable eye. It should be stated that the cave was closed "to prevent more valuable folk getting lost," and not for the purpose of "walling up" the fiddler's ghost as one might have conjectured.

It only remains for the twentieth century explorer to reopen the cave and penetrate its subterranean recesses. The writer must, however, decline to share the honour of the discoveries, as he opines that there are pleasanter ways of "shuffling off this mortal coil" than under a fall of chalk, the probable fate of the Anstey fiddler, if indeed the story be true. The incident of the dog—at any rate his loss of hair—is a later embellishment added to give a touch of sulphurous realism to the tale.

W. B. Gerish.

EASTWICK CHURCH.

THE earliest indication of a church at Eastwick may be gathered from the fact that the parish is mentioned in Domesday Book, from which it also appears that there was a priest attached to it, and from this we may reasonably infer the existence of a chapel.

The Manor of Eastwick, having come to the Crown, was granted to Sir Richard de Tany, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire and Essex, about 1263, but he was obliged to forfeit it for his complicity in the Rebellion of the Barons in 1264. Three years later, however, his lands were restored, and he was received back into favour. During his time, or in that of his sons Richard and Roger (who in turn succeeded him), the chapel was pulled down, and a cruciform Early English church built, probably about 1280, dedicated to St. Botolph.

The effigy which is now in the tower of the present church was found in the north transept of the old church; beneath it is a stone coffin. Though this effigy is the oldest in the Deanery, there is apparently no record to show whom it represents; the knight is in complete chain armour, and the legs are crossed at the knee. This latter point does not prove that the knight was necessarily a Crusader, as Boutell in his book on cross-legged knights remarks; but may also indicate that he was a founder or benefactor of the church in which he was buried. Thus this effigy may represent either Sir Richard de Tany or his son Richard, one or other of whom probably built the Early English church here.

The present chancel arch, with Purbeck marble pillars, is the sole remaining complete portion of the old church, and is of some interest on that account. In 1872, when the present church was built on the old site, this arch was taken down and put up again, the marble pillars, which were found to have been whitewashed, being scraped and cleaned.

The tower was left, but faced up with stone to conform agreeably with the outside of the nave and chancel of the new church. In the following year, however, it began to crumble, and was consequently partially pulled down and rebuilt. The two double

EFFIGY OF DE TANY IN EASTWICK CHURCH.

windows on the north and south sides of the nave mark the position of the transepts of the old church.

Since writing the above I find that the rectory of Eastwick was originally attached to the Priory of Temple Bruer, in Lincolnshire. The fact that that Priory belonged to the Knights Templars points to the probability (inasmuch as the Early English church at Eastwick was dedicated to a northern saint, 'Botolph,' who was an abbot, and flourished about 640) that they were the founders of the church. Sir Richard de Tany may have belonged to this body, as it is stated that the Manor of Eastwick was in the De Tany family for nearly two hundred years, i.e. 1140–1330, probably with the exceptions first stated.

Moreover, Richard Tany, presumably the son of Sir Richard above mentioned, obtained by a charter from Edward I the right to hold a market every Tuesday within the Manor, and a three days fair on June 16, 17, and 18, being the eve, St. Botolph's Day, and the morrow.

If Sir Richard de Tany belonged to the Knights Templars, he may have taken part in the sixth (1228), seventh (1250), and eighth (1270) Crusades, which would then account for the legs being crossed at the knee. At his instigation, therefore, the church may have been, and probably was, built by the Knights as a thankoffering for his safe return.

In 1291 the Prior of Wychsford's portion in the Rectory was found to amount to 10*s.*, and the value of the tithe was 1*s.* 6*d.*

The earliest recorded Rectors are:—John de Bury, instituted probably 1360. but no date is given; patron, Sir Thomas Mandeville. John Arkleby, instituted 1390 (30th June); patron, the same. William Forster, instituted 16th October, 1397; patron, Alice Holland, Countess of Kent.

George C. A. Rowley, Rector.

WIDFORD CHURCH.

I WOULD preface my notes on the church with an expression of unfeigned regret that our friend the Rector, although present with us to-day, could not be induced to favour us with a paper on the features of interest in the building in which he has ministered for more than a quarter of a century, and which owes so much to his loving care. We can only regret that he did not possess the living a decade earlier, as during that period it was 'restored,' and many interesting architectural details were lost, amongst other things a quaint old sundial, dating probably from the early seventeenth century, bearing an inscription "Time Flys."

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, hence we descend into it as into a baptistery. The present building contains architectural features chiefly of the Early English and Perpendicular Periods, but these are largely alterations and additions to the original building. It is thought that the main walls are those of the Norman structure, and it is quite possible the oak and walnut beams (there are three of each) across the nave are coeval with this early church. Up to the time of the 1868 restoration a very interesting Transition Norman arch existed over the north door, with the characteristic zigzag moulding of the period. This moulding was destroyed, but a small section was saved and inserted in the wall over the south door. Why the moulding was destroyed, and why it was thought fit to preserve a fragment, is a question that cannot now be answered. At the same time eight interesting Norman cushion capitals were discovered in the wall at the side of the tower arch, which were apparently the capitals of pillars of that arch in the Norman structure. Seven of these were lost, but one was fortunately retained, and is now very admirably adapted for the support of a credence table in the sanctuary.

The roof of the nave was originally of a higher pitch than at present, as evidenced by the mark on the tower wall. It was supposed that it was originally an open timber roof, but the opinion of others is that it was always the present waggon-headed shape, although the ribs, bosses, and plastering have been renewed.

The chief Early English features of the church are the tower west window, two windows in the nave, the rude piscina with a credence shelf, the sedilia in the chancel, and perhaps the mural paintings north and south of the altar.

INTERIOR OF WIDFORD CHURCH.

Looking east and showing Frescoes.

Originally the church was without a tower, having merely a bell turret as at Bengeo old church and Little Hormead, but in the twelfth century the tower was added, probably by the then owners of the living, the Monastery of St. Saviour's, Bermondsey. But perhaps local effort had much to do with its erection, and it is quite likely several years were occupied in its construction, our ancestors never building first and raising the money afterwards, but as funds came slowly in, two or three feet of the flint-work would be added, and then left for several months, hence the greater durability of ancient work. Not until it was completed would the west wall of the nave be removed and the tower joined thereto, thus we frequently find that towers do not bond into the nave walls.

The Norman tower arch was destroyed during the Perpendicular Period, and the present lofty arch inserted. We can see the marks in the responds which carried this early arch.

With regard to the piscina a certain difference of opinion exists. Cussans infers that the early church ended here, there being then no distinct chancel. On the other hand, the rood-stairs and mural paintings are evidence of the early date of the present chancel. But may not the church have been much smaller when the piscina was in use? Perhaps a small apsidal chancel existed here, with a low Norman arch between it and the nave as at Bengeo, and about the middle of the thirteenth century, this being found too small, it was taken down together with the arch. A new chancel being built and a rood-loft made, the piscina was filled up and only recently rediscovered.

Now with reference to the sedilia. This is one definition of the recess with an Early English arch on the south side of the chancel. Cussans calls it an Easter sepulchre, but it is urged that it is in the wrong position for such a pre-Reformation relic. Others regard it as a founder's tomb, probably that of the benefactor, who either repaired the fabric or rebuilt the chancel, and who was most probably a priest. It may, of course, have been made for the sedilia, and although it is rather low for this, still it is by no means inconvenient.

The paintings upon the chancel walls are a feature of such rarity in Hertfordshire that they are worthy of some detailed description. That on the north wall narrowly escaped destruction when the organ chamber was being built, but the builder was wisely instructed to make the arch narrower, and thus the greater portion of the design was preserved.

Cussans thought these of sufficient interest to give a full-page

illustration of them. The painting on the north wall comprises the figure of Christ seated on a rainbow (symbolical of universal dominion), with the sword of justice balanced upon His open outstretched fingers. These are emblematical of not only the suspension of just judgment, but of pardon through the blood of Christ. The hands and side are pierced, and the head is surrounded by a nimbus. On the left is an angel bearing a hammer, below it was the pincers (which have disappeared), each of which were emblems of the Crucifixion.

The painting to the right of the altar represents a bishop wearing his mitre, holding his pastoral staff in one hand, while he raises the other in the act of blessing. As the Bishop of London had spiritual jurisdiction over the valley subsequent to the Conquest, the explanation is self-evident.

The painting to the left represents a knight in a cloak with shoulder knots. He is standing in a recess or panel; above him is a flying pennon. Cussans suggests that this represents Sir John de L'Isle, or Sir William Scrope, to whom the manor was granted in 1393, and who was created a knight of the noble order of the Garter in the following year on the death of Sir Bryan Stapleton. Others suggest that it may represent William de Beaumont, cousin to William the Conqueror, who was granted this manor (with others) at the Conquest.

The east window was inserted at the 1868 restoration. It replaced a three-light Early English one which was considered too small. The present window approaches the other extreme, while its tracery is out of keeping with the remaining windows.

When the blocked-up north doorway was opened to form an entrance to the new vestry the ancient door was found; this has been carefully repaired with old oak, with pleasing effect.

The people of Widford are justly proud of their bells, and would join issue with anyone who stated they are not the sweetest in East Herts. There are six in all. No. 6 is supposed to be the finest tone; it is dated 1766. No. 5 is a pre-Reformation bell; it is inscribed—"Sancta Katerina, ora pro nobis."

This is probably one of those that were scheduled in the list of church goods prepared in the last year of Edward VI's reign; there were then four bells besides a 'sance' or sacring bell and one other "lytle bell."

With the solitary exception of the small brass shield in the altar steps, and an incised stone in the tower (which may commemorate a priest who was instrumental in building it), not a single ancient monument remains.

No pre-Reformation church plate is left, that at present in use being quite modern.

The font is ancient, the panels being filled with the usual Decorated conventional designs. The bowl is of Bath stone; the lower portion is of clunch, much affected by damp.

The registers commence in 1558. These record baptisms and marriages, no burials being registered before 1570.

Although not of archæological interest, some allusion should be made to the paintings by Miss F. C. Hadsley Gosselin on the ceiling of the chancel. There are three large and seventy-two small panels filled with emblems of the Apostles and saints, symbols of the Passion and of the Christian Church.

In the churchyard, over against the private burial-ground of the Gosselin family of Blakesware, is the well-known tombstone to Mary Field (misspelt Feild on the stone), Charles Lamb's grandmother. It was broken by the fall of a tree, but has been repaired, and the inscription recut, with the addition of the first four lines from Lamb's poem "The Grandame."

It reads:—

"To the Memory of
Mrs. Mary Field
Who departed this Life July
31st 1792. Aged 79 years."

Many admirers of Lamb and his works journey from far and near to see this tomb and the church, for in it Charles often worshipped, his grandmother being housekeeper at Blakesware, which was then in the possession of the Plumer family. This mansion has disappeared, having been destroyed some sixty years ago; the site was about half a mile from the church. In a letter dated October 31st, 1799, Lamb writes:—

"I could tell of an old marble hall with Roman Cæsars in marble hung round. I could tell of a wilderness and of a village church, where the bones of my honoured Grandam lie." One of Lamb's finest and tenderest poems is that just mentioned:

The Grandame.

"On the green hill top,
Hard by the House of Prayer, a modest roof,
And not distinguish'd from its neighbour barn,
Save by a slender tapering length of spire,
The Grandame sleeps. A plain stone barely tells
The name and date to the chance passenger.

For lowly-born was she, and long had eat,
Well-earn'd, the bread of service: hers was else
A mounting spirit, one that entertained
Scorn of base action, deed dishonourable,
Or aught unseemly. I remember well
Her reverend image: I remember too
With what a zeal she served her master's house
And how the prattling tongue of garrulous age
Delighted to recount the oft told tale
Of anecdote domestic. Wise she was
And wondrous skilled in genealogies,
And could in apt and voluble terms discourse
Of births, of titles, and alliances,
Of marriages and intermarriages,
Relationship remote, or near of kin,
Of friends offended, family disgraced,
Maiden high-born, but wayward, disobeying
Parental strict injunctions, and regardless
Of unmix'd blood, and ancestry remote,
Stooping to wed with one of low degree.
But these are not thy praises; and I wrong
Thy honoured memory, recording chiefly
Things light and trivial. Better 't were to tell
How with a nobler zeal and warmer love
She served her heavenly Master. I have seen
That reverend form bent down with age and pain,
And rankling malady: yet not for this
Ceased she to praise her Maker, or withdraw
Her trust from Him, her faith and humble hope;
So meekly had she learn'd to bear her cross—
For she had studied patience in the school
Of Christ; much comfort she had there derived,
And was a follower of the Nazarene."

A quaint epitaph appears on a stone at the east end of the church. It is:—

"In memory of
Mr. Benjamin Faint
Forty years clerk
of this Parish
Who died Jany. 14th 1816
Aged 81 years
After a conjugal life of upwards
of 60 years with his Widow
Who survived him."

The crumbling wall to the churchyard, just west of the church, should be noticed. A portion of this wall is much older than

the rest, the more ancient section being that which runs from the church stile to the subsidence. This part has its foundation on the solid chalk, 6 to 8 feet deep, while the later wall is resting on the treacherous clay from 2 to 3 feet below the surface. The former dates from the time of Henry VII, possibly earlier, while the latter is not older than the reign of Elizabeth. The circular-headed gateway (a very interesting specimen of the brickwork of the period) was evidently the route from the Manor House to the church. The blocked doorway in the earlier portion of the wall is believed to have communicated with the north door of the church, and was that used by the monastic brethren. The bricked-up window close by and the wall, it is thought, formed part of the refectory. There is, of course, the usual tradition of a subterranean passage running from the Manor House to Blakesware; only a glance at the supposed route under the valley of the Ash will convince most persons of its improbability. But there seems some ground for the theory of an underground passage or subway leading from the monastic cell through the churchyard, as when digging graves a brick vault has been met with 4 or 5 feet below the surface. It is suggested that it was a subterranean way into the church communicating with the rood staircase, and was to enable the monks at all hours and weather to visit the church for service, and to attend to the lights on the rood-loft.

There does not appear another instance of any similar passage existing elsewhere for such a purpose, and as the distance between the church and the monastery was so slight there scarcely seems any necessity for it. Many are sceptical about these underground ways; they are so numerous that, having deep respect for the sound good sense of our ancestors, it is difficult to believe they went to so great an expense and labour for such problematical advantage. May it not have been a barrel-drain, terminating in a dumb well at some distance away? The monastic brethren were keenly alive to the necessity for sanitation, and not long since a sewer of this kind was discovered near the ruins of Lewes Priory in Sussex.

W. B. Gerish.

TUMULI AT BARROW FARM, WIDFORD.

Before speaking of the tumuli at Barrow Farm, Widford, it may be well to make a few general remarks on the subject of burial mounds.

From the remotest antiquity the most characteristic feature of the sepulchral system of our primitive forefathers has been the construction of what have been variously termed cairns, mounds, barrows, lows, or tumuli over the remains of the dead. Indeed, it has been remarked that the only monuments to which people in a rude state of civilization seem to have been anxious to give durability, were their graves.

Sepulchral mounds, of various sizes and shapes, are found in all the countries of Europe, and, indeed, in most parts of the world. Their object is, of course, the common human sentiment of honouring and preserving the memory of the dead.

Few things are more striking than this almost universal prevalence of barrow burial, a custom found among the heathen races of both low and advanced civilization, and one which, having survived the introduction of Christianity, exists to-day in the simple mounds still raised in our churchyards to mark the last resting-place of our departed friends.

The tomb seems to have been to the early races, in a very real sense, the habitation of the spirits of the dead. In its perfect form the barrow enclosed an apartment or apartments where the occupant was accompanied by the weapons and ornaments which had been his possessions in life. From the contents of many of the barrows which have been opened we thus gather that belief in a future state has existed from the remotest periods.

Barrows may be divided broadly into two classes, the long and the round. There is little doubt that the long are the older. They are frequently chambered, and no metal has ever been found in the primary interment of any of them; what weapons or implements have been present are formed of bone or stone. Pottery is scarce, and the human remains are of a race of small stature. It is conjectured, therefore, that the long barrow belongs to the Stone Age.

Round barrows belong to the Bronze and Iron Ages. Weapons of these metals are often found in them, and pottery is also common.

TUMULUS AT WIDFORD.

From a photo by E. E. Squires.

The earlier barrows seem usually to have been surrounded by a trench or low rampart, or, when the barrow was built of stones, the enclosure was generally formed of a wall of the same.

In England we have barrows which belong to all the great periods of our early history. Speaking generally, these vary in size and shape as much as they vary in their contents.

It is not necessary here to speak of the practices of inhumation or cremation, or of the urns, chambers, cists, coffins, etc., in which the remains have at various periods been placed, but having considered some of the conclusions of various authorities on the subject, we may proceed to examine more particularly the barrows under our immediate notice.

These two mounds lie on land known as Barrow Farm, the property of Sir Martin le Marchant Gosselin. They belong to the round class, and are situate close together in a striking position on a hill to the north-west of the Buntingford branch of the Great Eastern Railway, about 250 yards from the River Ash, less than half a mile from the road passing through Widford in the direction of the Hadhams, and four miles east, as the crow flies, from the Ermine Street. They are composed of a light gravelly soil, and there is a saucer-like depression in the field, about 60 yards to the south, indicating, perhaps, that earth has been removed from there to form the mounds.

The large mound is so covered with brushwood that its exact measurement is difficult. It is certainly a very fine specimen, of great size, being about 100 feet in diameter and 35 feet in height. At the western side a quantity of soil seems to have been removed. This, it is said, was done by the former owner of the property, the late Mr. Richard Hunt, who wished to remove the mound, but this was probably found a rather expensive operation, and the attempt was relinquished. The mound is circular in shape and tapers gradually towards the summit, which is fairly level, measuring at its widest points from north to south about 47 feet, and from east to west about 18 feet. Originally, probably, it was conical, but centuries of exposure have doubtless modified the outline. Several trees, of some size, have been removed from it, and the firs which now surmount it add to its striking appearance.

The smaller mound lies some 50 yards to the south of the larger one, and appears to have been considerably disturbed. It is about 30 feet in diameter and 7 feet above the ground-level, and was opened, according to Cussans, by the Hon. Richard Braybrooke in 1851.

The other county historians do not throw much light on the

origin of these tumuli. Chauncy and Clutterbuck do not mention them. Salmon, however, writes as follows:—

"In this Parish [Widford] upon a Hill a little to the West of the River are two Tumuli or Barrows, which give the name of Barrow to the House and Estate to which they belong. As these stand at a small Distance from the other of Standon at Haven End, they may be concluded Danish, if the other are so. That they laid up their ships at Haven End is highly probable, because that joins to the Ermine Street, from whence they gathered in their Plunder. There might be an Action hereabout, in memory of which, and of some great Man slain, these Monuments were thrown up: which at the same Time were for Terror to the distressed Saxons."

Mr. Cussans, our latest county historian, writes:—

"In a field belonging to Richard Hunt, Esquire, ... are two Roman barrows, one of which was partially opened by the Hon. Richard Braybrooke, in 1851, when a few objects, but none of great archæological interest, were discovered. The other, which covers an area of nearly half an acre, has no appearance of ever having been disturbed."

With regard to Salmon's remarks, it is known that this eastern side of the county, while under Saxon rule, was several times ravaged by the Danes.

It is worth noticing, too, that a wood about ¼ mile to the south-west is known as "Godwyn's Wood," while about 1¾ miles to the south-east (on the other side of the River Ash) another wood is known as "Battles Wood." The meadow at the bottom of the hill on which the tumuli stand is called (by the occupier of the farm) "Standfast Meadow." From this we may hazard a guess that a fight has, at some time, taken place in the neighbourhood.

The place-name itself—Widford—is derived, Professor Skeat informs us, from the Anglo-Saxon, and the sense is "withy-ford," i.e. a ford where willows grow.

Another point has been noticed with regard to this district. Charles Lamb, in his essay "Blakesmoor in H——shire," speaking of the family portraits at "Blakesmoor" (Blakesware) refers to the "bright yellow H——shire hair," and it has been pointed out by Mr. Gerish that "guinea-gold hair is common among children on the coast of Norfolk, descendants of the Norse settlers. If such prevailed near Widford, it would seem to point to a Danish settlement in the district."

Local legends tell us that the large mound was thrown up "in the wars," and that the field in which it is situate was the scene of a great battle; but what wars we are not informed.

We may also notice in this connection that a barrow in Broxbornebury Park, seven miles to the south-west, was opened in 1901 under the direction of Sir John Evans.[1] Only one fragment of (apparently) charred bone was found, and, taking various circumstances into consideration, Sir John offers the conjecture, amongst others, that the barrow possibly marked the site of the cremation of some Danish chief whose ashes had been collected and taken away by his adherents to his native land.

These circumstances seem to give some colour to Salmon's conjecture.

Mr. Cussans no doubt had some grounds for stating that the barrows are of Roman origin, at all events so far as the small one is concerned. It is possible that he may have seen the objects discovered in it by the Hon. Richard Braybrooke; no trace can now be discovered of their existence. They are not in the Saffron Walden Museum, where there is a considerable collection of the Braybrooke 'finds,' nor is any account of the opening of the barrow in the reports of the various societies in which we might expect to find some mention of the event. I do not know what grounds Mr. Cussans had for concluding the large barrow to be of Roman origin. So far as can be ascertained no Roman antiquities have been discovered in the immediate neighbourhood, but there is a Nether *Street* (the 'street' seems to point to Roman times) about half a mile to the south-east of the barrows.

The principal barrows which we know to have been opened anywhere near those under discussion are situated at Broxbornebury, Easneye Wood near Ware, and Youngsbury near Ware. I have already alluded to the Broxbornebury barrow. That at Easneye Wood was opened in 1899; it is about 60 feet in diameter at the base and 10 feet high, considerably smaller than the Widford barrow, from which it is three miles in a straight line to the south-west. A quantity of burnt bones was the only discovery, and Sir John Evans, under whose superintendence the barrow was opened, gives it as his opinion that it is probably of pre-Roman date.[2]

The other barrow, at Youngsbury, near Ware, is situate three miles west-north-west in a straight line, and was opened in 1889. Its diameter is about 60 feet and height 12 feet, and in a cavity a fine sepulchral urn and other articles were found,

[1] Transactions, Vol. II, Part I, p. 6.
[2] Transactions, Vol. I, Part II, p. 137.

which Sir John Evans (who again directed operations) considered to be Roman of about the second century after Christ.[1]

We see thus that, at no great distance, sepulchral mounds have been opened, which in one case may possibly be of pre-Roman date, in another of undoubted Roman date, and in the other instance possibly of Danish origin, and, accepting Mr. Cussans' statement as to the Roman origin of the smaller of the Widford tumuli, we must form our own opinion as to the period to which the larger one belongs. Judging from its size it is probably raised over the remains of a person of some distinction, unless, as is also possible, successive interments have raised the mound to its present dimensions. Mounds certainly do exist which seem to have been regular family burial-places. The proximity of the two mounds is also striking.

It is quite useless to venture on an opinion as to the probable date of a barrow merely from a cursory examination of its exterior, and beyond the assertion that, like the stone discovered by Mr. Pickwick, the barrow appears to be ancient, it is unwise to venture. The only way to ascertain the origin of the barrow is to open it. What we should find if this were done is a matter for conjecture. We can only hope that, at no distant date, a thorough examination of it may be made, the results of which cannot fail to be of the greatest interest.

E. E. Squires.

[1] Archæologia, vol. lii, p. 287.

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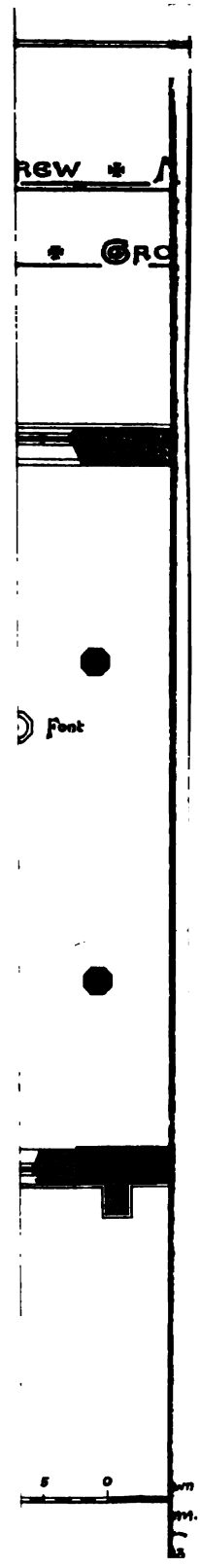


ST. ANDREW'S, MUCH HADHAM.

Amongst the churches of Hertfordshire there are few that have suffered less through the ravages of time or the troubled periods of English history than the parish church of Much Hadham. A small river called the Ash runs through the village, after a course of some ten miles or so from where it rises in the uplands of the Pelhams, and empties itself into the River Lea. The Bishops of London have from Saxon times been Lords of the Manor of Much Hadham, where their Manor House, called the Palace, is still standing, though now passed into private hands. Much Hadham can boast of having been, through this historic palace, the birthplace of the father of King Henry VII, as his grandmother Katherine of Valois, widow of Henry V, after her marriage with Owen Tudor, was committed by the Regent Gloucester to the safe keeping of the Bishop of London (Bishop Gray), who sent her to his house at Hadham, and there, probably in 1430, she gave birth to a son, Edmund of Hadham, afterwards Earl of Richmond.

The church bears many marks of the Bishops' active interest in its construction. Though it was begun in the end of the twelfth century, it was not finished till the close of the fifteenth,[1] and so it has all the architectural features of the times during which it was being built. Originally it seems to have been a very small Early English church, with transepts running out north and south from what is now the chancel. The string-course, starting from the east wall, turns outwards, leading no doubt into the transepts; towards the beginning of the thirteenth century the chancel arch was built, and the nave commenced. The small earlier church, out of which the present church grew by development and enlargement, probably had at the east end three narrow lancet-shaped windows like the one on the north side overlooking the sanctuary. On the south side one of the original Early English windows still remains; the three lancet windows

[1] The tower was apparently built by Bishop Braybrooke (Bishop of London 1380–1404), as his coat-of-arms is carved on it.

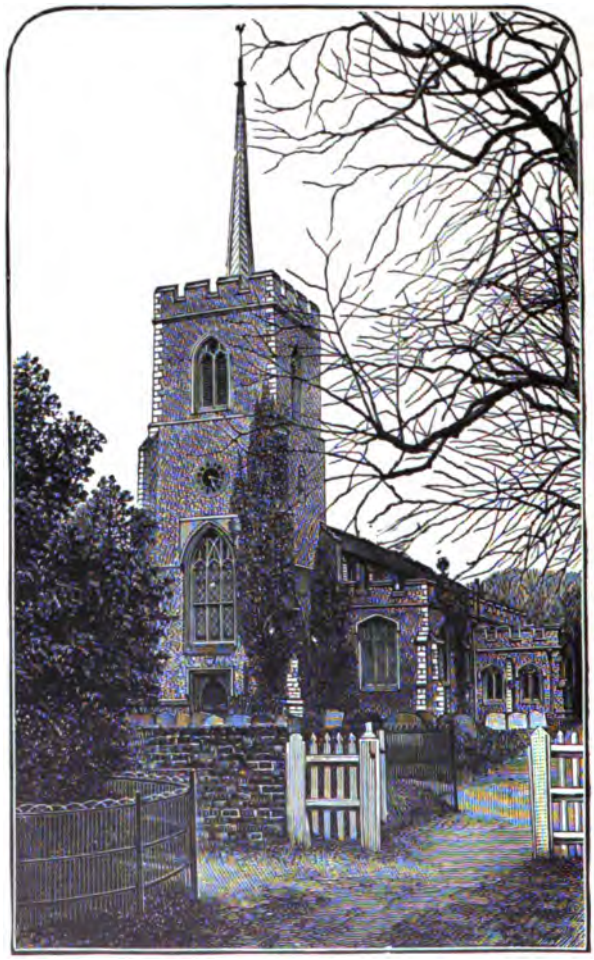
at the east end have disappeared, and given place to a Perpendicular window of fifteenth century work, when probably the north side lancet window was bricked up and remained unnoticed and unsuspected till it was discovered in 1845. The transept was taken down, and the space on either side filled in with a wall during the Perpendicular Period, for the two windows inserted to north and south are architecturally of that date.

As you pass down the church the first thing to be noticed is the column nearest the chancel arch on the north side, which is lower than any of the others. This low arch is exactly like the chancel arch in its moulding, and we may therefore say it is of the same date. It may have been the beginning of a north aisle, but as its western pillar is not entire, but like the eastern one is set against a wall, it probably opened into a small side chapel. Traces on the inner wall above the arch and the stones of the outer wall seem to show it had a low sloping roof, much below the present roof of the aisle. The piscina now visible is of Perpendicular work. Scattered amongst the mouldings of the arches on the north side is to be seen the 'Ball' flower, the well-known ornament of Decorated English work. The south aisle was built first, and is of an earlier period than the north; running round each is a string-course in a very fair state of preservation. Whilst that on the south side is of the Early English Period, the corresponding one on the north side is of the Decorated (1377). Everywhere there is evidence of the different periods: it is seen in the windows, some of which are Decorated, some Perpendicular, and some Early English.

One of the windows on the south side is said to be almost unique, showing neither the traces of the Decorated nor the upright lines of the Perpendicular. Some, again, of the earlier windows have been removed to make way for others of the Perpendicular Period.

The corbels which support the roof-beams are elaborately carved, and represent characters drawn from sacred or secular history. There are the emblems of the four Evangelists, figures of Dives and Lazarus, of a woman spinning, and of Edward III. This last is shown wearing a crown, and has a long beard and a sword-belt. Another of these corbels in the north aisle represents Courtenay, Bishop of London (1375), for the head is an unmistakable likeness of his monument in Canterbury Cathedral. Courtenay was translated to Canterbury in 1380. This Bishop has more than a passing interest, as it was before him that Wycliffe was brought in 1377.

All through the church the Bishops of London are in evidence.



MUCH HADHAM CHURCH.

Tower built 1380-1400, Porch about 1432.

Besides Courtenay carved in stone on a corbel, there are the arms of Bassett on old glass (Bishop in 1244), and also those of Kempe (Bishop in 1450–1489), now forming part of the east window. Then, also, the coat-of-arms of Braybrooke (Bishop of London 1380–1404) is to be seen carved on the tower, which gives us nearly the exact date of its building. The east window has a little more old glass than the coats-of-arms of the two prelates: there is a row of small female figures near the top, and in the upper row the two central figures, St. Peter and St. Andrew, the latter the patron saint, are of fifteenth century glass. Besides these the three sacred monograms at the bottom of the window must be assigned to the same date.

A few brasses still remain in the church; most of these are to the Newce family, who lived in Henry VIII's, Mary's, and Elizabeth's time. One of these Newces seems to have embezzled church property in the shape of a bell; he was one of the King's Commissioners, but he was apparently only allowed to retain a small part of the spoil, the greater part being taken by the two other Commissioners, no doubt greater thieves than he. At the foot of the chancel step there is a small brass in fourteenth century lettering, with the inscription "Priez pur l'alme, Alban, Psone de Hadham." This has reference to Alan de Fen, who was Rector of Much Hadham 1369–1372. A very large brass with a floriated cross, in memory of Simon Flambard (Rector 1320–1332), has unfortunately been torn away from its stone. The inscription, in Lombardic letters, can easily be traced: "Hic jacet Simon Flambard, quondam Rector hujus Ecclesiae." A monument on the south-east wall of the chancel to Dame Judith Aylmer, widow of John Aylmer, Bishop of London, and mother of Theophilus Aylmer, Rector 1589 – 1626, recalls memories of Lady Jane Grey, as the Bishop had been tutor to the children of the Marquis of Dorset; but it is a little curious that the figure in the church has been deprived of its head, like the unfortunate lady whom the worthy Bishop taught. Newcourt says Theophilus Aylmer "was a great enemy to the Puritans and much hated by them."

Perhaps the most noticeable monument is an Easter sepulchre cut into the chancel wall on the north side. It is about 4 feet high; there is no tomb or figure under it, but a simple arch, with floriated work at its head.

Two very high-backed carved oak seats of fifteenth century work have survived; they are of the same period as those of the choir. There were originally three seats, which were used to form

part of a pew at the west end of the church, but were afterwards divided, so that two only remain. In the porch, and forming the upper step to the church, is a large stone slab, which seems to have been the lid of a stone coffin. The original stone altar was taken down in Queen Elizabeth's time, and is now part of the chancel floor. It has been put under the communion table placed in the church in that Queen's reign. On the carved oak of this table we still see the emblematic vine, grapes and wheat sheaves. The present oak top of the table is modern, as it was found necessary to enlarge it. A double piscina is a noticeable feature of interest, and a flight of steps up to the rood-loft; but the steps are worn, not perhaps so much by age as by use. There is a curious inscription on the sill of one of the windows in the north aisle: "Ad Nomen Dom: curvate genua il" (At the Name of the Lord bow the knee).

Cussans gives the following list of church goods belonging to the parish church of Much Hadham :—

"A challeice of Sylv̊ pcell gylt wayeng viij ownces
ij hangyngs fr· the Aulter of Red Sylke
One vestmēt & ij tunacles wrought wt· veins gould wt· the albs
One Cope of cheker worke & one vestment of red & blewe color
A vestmēt of blewe Satten of brudgs (*Bruges*) wt· an albe
One cope of blewe cruell (*worsted thread*)
A cope of down (?) damaske
One cope of grene cruell
ij grene vestments wt· an albe
one vestment of blewe & grene wt· albe
A vestment of blewe Say (*a woollen cloth*), wt· albe
iij Corporals ij of whych Sylke & one of satten
V bells in the steple."

Of these bells the Treble is inscribed
"The Gift of Richard Chase Esqr· SK 1738."
This was cast by Samuel Knight, who died about the third quarter of the eighteenth century.

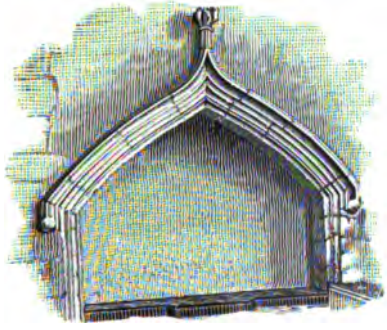
2. "Wm. J. H. Church W. I. H. Made me 1654."
I. H. being the initials of John Hodson.

3, 4. "John Dyer made me 1595."

5. "John Pearce, Christopher Coleman Churchwardens SK 1738."
This is from the same foundry as the treble bell.

CORBEL IN NAVE.
Woman with distaff, spinning.

CORBEL IN NAVE.
Eagle holding a Scroll.



ARCH IN NORTH WALL OF CHANCEL.
Probably Easter Sepulchre.

CARVED SEAT (ONE OF TWO)
Originally Chancel Stalls.

CORBEL IN NORTH AISLE.
Head of Bishop Courtney.

CORBEL IN NAVE.
King, probably Edward III.

MUCH HADHAM CHURCH.

6. "CANTATE DOMINO. LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT.
JOHN RAWLETT & JOHN SPENCER CH. WARDENS 1759."

In addition to these is a little bell called a priest's bell, having no inscription but only the mark of an arrow 3 inches long. It has been considered from its make and shape, and especially by the 'cannons' or handles by which it is hung, to be of a date between 1400 and 1500. It is locally called 'Tingtang.' The whole of the bells were rehung in 1885, some of them being much worn.

(STATE PAPERS: *Domestic, Edward VI*, v. 5, art. 19.)

"Certificate of the Churchwardens of the parishes within the city of London and the several deaneries in Essex and Hertfordshire within the diocese of London, of the sale of all the church plate, ornaments, jewels, bells, vestments, etc., lately belonging to their respective churches, and of the appropriation of the proceeds (1548).

Hadham Magna. Thomas Newes of the said prysh hathe Solde a bell belonginge to the saide churche for the Some of xix^{li} v^{s} whereof remayneth in thandes of S^{r} henry Parke' knighte ix^{li} in thandes Aldreede of Dawton v^{li} and the resydue in the handę of the same Thomas Newes."

R. S. GREGORY.

THE PALACE, MUCH HADHAM.

"THE Palace" at Much Hadham was in the possession of the Bishops of London for close upon a thousand years. The will conveying the land to the Bishops is by Ælfgar, who was an Alderman of Essex, and died about A.D. 951–3. He was the father of Queen Ethelfleda, the wife of King Edmund, who was stabbed at Pucklechurch in 946. His other daughter, Ælfleda, was the wife of Brithnoth, who succeeded his father-in-law Ælfgar as Alderman (or Earldorman) of Essex. Ælfgar had secured some privileges in regard to making his will, by presenting the then King Edred with the sword which had been given to him by King Edmund.

Ælfgar by his will gives his lands for the use of his daughters, and of his younger daughter's husband Brithnoth, for their lives, and for their children if they have any, and then to various holy places and uses. His daughter Queen Ethelfleda must have made her will before the year 991, for at that time Brithnoth, her sister's husband, was alive, and we know from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle that in the year 991 "was Ipswich ravaged; and very shortly after that was Brithnoth the Earldorman slain at Maldon."

This is Queen Ethelfleda's bequest:—

"That is, first that I give my Lord the lands at Lambourn, and at Cholsey, and at Reading, and 4 badges of 200 mancuses of gold, and 4 fur-robes, and 4 cups, and 4 blades, and 4 horses, and I beseech my loving lord for the love of God, that my request may stand good, and I have made none other, God is my witness, and I give the lands at Damerham to Glastonbury for King Edmund's soul, and for King Edgar's soul, and for my soul. And I give the landes at Woodham to Berthnoth the alderman and my sister for their day, and after their day to St. Mary's Church at Barking. And *I give the landes at Hadham to Berthnoth the alderman and to my sister for their day, and after their day to Paul's bury at London to the Bishop's home*" . . . . "and I give to Egwin my reeve 4 hides" (of land) "at Hadham after my day as it stood in old days."

The will of the younger sister, Ælfleda, must have been written after this time, as she gives to Ely, "where my lord's body resteth, the three lands of which we both made behest to God and his saint," and she also speaks of "one hide at Cheveley that my sister gat for herself, and the badge-fellow to the one that was given to my lord as *soul shot*."

This is a passage in her will:—

"Then there be the lands that mine eldren bequeathed to other holy stowes" . . . . "*and to Paul's minstre at London the lands at Hadham to the Bishop's home.*"

Ælfgar's will seems to have been carried out pretty strictly by his daughters as far as we can judge, and they must have died childless.

There is a curious clause in Queen Ethelfleda's will, in which she says:—

"And I will that men *free half* of *my men* in each town for my soul, and that men deal out a full half of the goods that I have in each town for my soul."

The next point of any interest about the palace is connected with Queen Katherine, the widow of King Henry V.

Henry V, after the battle of Agincourt, married Katherine, the daughter of the King of France. He died in 1422, leaving her a widow of 20 with an infant son, who was Henry VI. A few years afterwards she married privately a Welsh soldier, Owen Tudor, who was a squire of King Henry V, and afterwards Clerk of the Wardrobe to Queen Katherine. Her intimacy with him was first suspected from Owen Tudor falling into the Queen's lap, as she sat on a low seat looking on at his dancing, and he overbalanced himself executing some elaborate step. She was placed under the charge of the Bishop of London, who, it is thought, was a Bishop Gray, and her first child by this second marriage was born at the Bishop's house, and was called Edmund of Hadham. Edmund Tudor was made Earl of Richmond by his half-brother Henry VI, and married Margaret Beaufort, the heiress of the house of Somerset, and a descendant of John of Gaunt, through whom Henry Tudor, who became Henry VII, was supposed to derive his title to the Throne.

In the reign of Edward VI, Bishop Ridley was living for a time at Hadham Palace, when Queen Mary, then Princess, was living at Hunsdon House. He went to see her more than once, and tried to convert her to Protestantism, but after a time the Princess refused to listen to him, and objected to his visits.

When Mary became Queen, Bonner was Bishop of London, and came down to his house at Bishop's Stortford, and drove over to Hadham. The bells at Bishop's Stortford were ringing merrily, but the bells at Hadham were silent, which greatly angered the Bishop. He was also vexed to find that the ornaments of the altar in Much Hadham Church, which had probably been removed in Edward VI's reign, had not been replaced. The Rector of Hadham tried to excuse himself for not having the bells rung by

saying that he had forgotten it, being so busy helping to prepare a feast for Bishop Bonner. However, the Bishop was very angry, and boxed the Rector's ears, refused to partake of the feast, and drove on very wrathful to Hertford. But his attendants, more sensibly, stayed behind "and did eat the feast," which was probably prepared in the old hall of the palace, now used as a drawing-room.

The palace being only one of the many manor houses of the Bishops, there are but few records concerning it.

In 1745 it was let for the first time to a Felix Calvert, a name still well known in the neighbourhood. After that it was let to a lady who kept a school for girls, and subsequently to a doctor. The palace had no new owner until about fifteen years ago (1888), when the Ecclesiastical Commissioners sold it to Mrs. Berry, who five years later parted with it to Mrs. Wetherall.

An ugly wing has been added on the east side, but otherwise the house has been little altered, except that the wall of the west front has been burnt, and was rebuilt about 150 years ago. The timbers that remain are charred to a depth of 2 inches. It is a 'Henry' house, making the plan of the letter H, as the Elizabethan houses form the letter E, the present drawing-room forming the bar of the H. The room has still its old black and white stone pavement. The corridor at the back is of a later date, as may be seen by the windows looking into it. The house had at first only two sets of chimneys, all the others being evidently added much later. The large panelling downstairs probably dates from Stuart days, but most of the panelling upstairs is much older, and was made before the angles were moulded or mitred. Some of the beams in the house are of great size, being the entire trunks of large trees, not planed, but marked with the strokes of the adze.

The foundations of what was probably a still older house can be traced on the front lawn whenever a dry Summer occurs.

NOTE.—The following reference to the house occurs in "Rural England," by Rider Haggard, vol. i, p. 527:—"On our way thither [i.e. to Blount's Farm] we passed a beautiful house known as Hadham Palace, that once belonged to the Bishops of London. It is situated in a deep hollow backed by trees, so that the traveller looks down on it from the road that skirts the tableland. The effect of this three-gabled ancient dwelling, with its tiled roofs, dormer windows, and walls covered by an abundance of creeping plants, was singularly charming. Close to it stands the church, with its quaint, leaden spire, and a wall-encircled graveyard dotted with white tombstones. Between the church and house is a verdant lawn, while in front of it lie the gardens, and falling sheer from the roadside to a flat tableland lined out with elms, the steep slope of a hill."

MRS. WETHERALL.

A.T.

d April 20 1801.
Mitchell, Architect.

MOOR PLACE, MUCH HADHAM.

The name of this place is said by Cussans to have been derived from William Moore, who in the Herald's visitation of 1634 is described as of Great Hadham. William Moore is believed to have descended from a family settled for many years at Sandon; there are numerous entries in the Parish Register of Much Hadham relating to the family of Moore, ranging between the years 1570 and 1640.

Sarah, daughter of Clement Newce (who died in 1579), married William Moore; and the register contains entries of seven children of William Moore and Sarah Newce from June, 1580, to February, 1589. There are several fine brasses in Hadham Church relating to the Newce family.

There is evidence that about the year 1616 Sir Gerratt Harvey was living at Moor Place, but whether as owner or tenant is not known; two of his children were baptised here in the years 1616 and 1618.

The Rector of Much Hadham about that time was Theophilus Aylmer, and there exists a long and curious letter written by him dated 30th August, 1624, inviting Dr. Usher, then Bishop of Meath and afterwards Archbishop of Armagh, and Mrs. Usher to visit him at the Rectory.[1] They came, and from the Rectory they went to visit Sir G. Harvey at Moor Place, as appears from some contemporaneous letters,[2] and in January, 1625, while residing here, he received the King's letter appointing him Archbishop of Armagh, and on the 11th of that month he preached the funeral sermon of his friend the Rector, Theophilus Aylmer, and Sir G. Harvey was present. Harvey probably served as a volunteer at the attack on Cadiz in the year 1596, and was one of many knighted by the Lord Admiral, the Earl of Essex, to the great displeasure of Queen Elizabeth.

[1] See Appendix 1.
[2] See Appendix 2.

About this date (1596) Moor Place was owned by John Dalton, or Daltans, and there are entries in the registers relating to the Dalton family between 1587 and 1657.

From the Daltons it passed to Edward Neville, Earl of Abergavenny, who was succeeded by his son Henry, who died in 1641. The register shows that the latter was living here from 1637 to 1641, as the deaths of several of his servants are registered, one being described as "glazier," another as "coachman," another as "servant to Lord A."

Henry, Lord Abergavenny, married a daughter of the Earl of Dorset, Lord Treasurer of England, who sat at the trial of Mary Queen of Scots and of Lord Essex.

The Nevilles were succeeded by Sir John Gore, knight, of Gilston, from whom Moor Place passed about the year 1650 to Richard Atkyns, a grandson of Dr. Henry Atkyns, of Cheshunt. The latter was a distinguished physician, greatly favoured by James I. He was born at Great Berkhampstead in 1558, and was President of the College of Physicians in 1606. In 1604 he was sent by James I to bring back his son Charles from Scotland, and he attended Prince Henry, who died in 1612. In 1611 James I offered him a baronetcy, which was declined. He died in 1635, and is buried in Cheshunt Church, where there is a monument to him.[1] He left one son, Henry, who died in 1638.

Richard Atkyns, the son of Henry, succeeded his father on 3rd July, 1638. He was Sheriff of Bucks in 1649–50, being of Newport Pagnell in that county. He was created a baronet 13th June, 1660. He married Rebecca, daughter and co-heir of Sir Edmund Wright, otherwise Buckley, of Swakeleys, in Ickenham, Middlesex (sometime Lord Mayor of London), by his second wife Jane, daughter of William Mills. He died and was buried 24th August, 1689, at Clapham; his daughters, Mary and Agnes, are registered as having been respectively baptised on January 28th, 1655, and May 12th, 1656.

Chauncy says "that Richard Atkyns kept a bountiful table and made a small park for his conveniency, and removed to Clapham, where he had another seat."

Richard Atkyns sold the place to James Berners, who died in 1692, and left it to his son William, who was buried June 23rd, 1712.

The Berners were an old Essex family settled for many generations in the Roothings. There are entries relating to

[1] See Appendix 3.

them in the registers of Much Hadham from 1679 and onwards, and also a fine marble monument in the church to several members of the family.

In 1870 an old chest was discovered in the Bank of England which was opened and found to contain plate and letters from a lady who had been engaged to William Berners of Moor Place.

Some representatives of the Berners family now reside in Suffolk.

In 1749 Moor Place was sold to James Gordon, who died in 1768, and by his will (dated 1766) devised it to his nephew James Brebner, son of his sister Mary, who took the name of Gordon by Royal License (dated 25th May, 1769), and married a daughter of Mr. Sam. Whitbread. James Brebner Gordon built the present house and left it to his son James Gordon, who was succeeded by his son James Adam Gordon, who died about 1854. In 1860 the estate was sold to Mr. Money Wigram, and in 1885 it came into the possession of the present owner, Mr. F. H. Norman. For many years before 1860 the place was let, and among others, Mr. Nicholas Parry, Captain Gunning, Sir Seymour Blane, and Mr. Thomas Carter were tenants at different times.

Before the present house was built, an earlier house stood about 100 yards to the east. There is a print of it in Chauncy, where it is represented as a three-storied house with five gables along the front, the middle one somewhat projecting. The entrance door is under the central gable and approached by almost circular steps, and above is a square tablet which may have borne sculptured arms. The engraving is of great interest, as it shows many details of what was a good example of a seventeenth century country residence. A bell hangs in a small bell tower surmounted by a cupola over the centre of the house, and various garden enclosures with their formal beds are depicted. A fountain plays in the centre of one enclosure. Of the three or four garden houses or arbours shown, two have their floors above the ground-level, and one stands on four or five legs. The avenues of trees are shown, and in the distance a large number of deer may be seen among the trees of the park. This engraving, which bears the name of J. Drapentier, is inscribed to "Y^e Worshipful William Berners, of More's Place, Esq."

This house probably faced the North Avenue, and it is believed that the present stables and part, if not all, of the garden walls existed with the old house.

The so-called conduit house still existing on part of the garden called the Wilderness is of the date of the earlier house and stables, it contained a pump by which water could be supplied to the house,

and is probably the oldest piece of brickwork now existing on the place.

The present house was built between the years 1775 and 1779. The architect was Robert Adam, the famous architect of the reign of George III, whose works are numerous and well known. It was originally a plain square red brick house with a stone balustrade round the roof. Since then two wings have been added, but no important alterations have been made in the arrangements of the central block. There is a coat-of-arms in stone over the entrance, believed to be those of James Brebner Gordon, who built the house.

The present wings were added, that on the south side by Mr. Money Wigram soon after he became owner of the place, and that on the north side (which contains the kitchen, scullery, and other offices) by the present owner about the year 1887. Mr. R. Norman Shaw was the architect.

The present entrance from the village must have been formed in the early part of the eighteenth century, as the land on which the lodge stands, and 16 acres of land adjoining, formerly belonged to the Rector, and was sold to the Berners family about the year 1707 by the then Rector, Dr. Stanley. The entrance from the main road had previously been some three hundred yards further south; in a direct line from the present stables, the track of this road is easily distinguishable.

F. H. Norman.

APPENDIX 1.

Mr. Theophilus Ailmer to the Bishop of Meath.[1]

Right Reverend Father, mine honoured Lord,

Were I not on this instant Tuesday August ult. to be at our Bishop's visitation, I had this day attended your L^d^ship in person, to have by word desired that boon, which I trust your L^d^ship may grant without your prejudice; and I am assured will be to my exceeding great pleasure. Mine earnest desire is, that it will please your L^d^ship and the virtuous gentlewoman your wife,

[1] Usher's works (Elrington), vol. xvi, p. 412, letter 372.

to take one whole week's repast with us at my poor house in Hadham, that your mind may have some relaxation from daily studies, by taking view of my poor library, which, tho' it cannot afford books fitting your employment, yet will it take great pride that so worthy a Bishop hath vouchsafed to look into it. How will the great Bishop Naziangus, with that Prince of Eloquence the Caesarian Archbishop, how will his Nicene brother, that treasure of learning, how will that golden-mouthed Constantinopolitan Archbishop agree to see that Bishop, in whom themselves shall see all their particular prayers jointly concurring? Your Lordship cannot conceive with what desire Epipharius, Eusebius, and immortal praise-deserving Athanasius, do expect you, since I named the expectation of your coming. Some of them have decked themselves in new and fresh apparel, as desirous to be somewhat answerable in outward hue to the view of their fellow bishop, others of them have covered themselves with old and dusty garments, in lamenting your so long absence. . . . . They think it an age before they enjoy your presence. Wherefore may it please you to vouchsafe your presence, the presence shall glad many, but chiefly me who am unfeignedly joyed with the hope thereof. For this cause I have sent this my son to entreat the same in my behalf, and to certify your Lordship, that if you be not readily provided of your own, I am furnished by the help of *a worthy Knight* [probably Sir Gerrard Harvey], to send you a coach for the better conveying of the good gentlewoman and her waiting woman, together with your L^d^ship. And may I understand, by my own son the day of your determination, the coach shall duly attend you, with two or three or more empty geldings, for the men to ride on and to attend you as you shall appoint. Thus most humbly craving pardon for my boldness, and leave further to be bold, in that unfeigned love wherewith I honour you from mine heart, I rest expecting the desired message of your Lordship's coming.

Your Lordship's in all duty most unfeigned,

THOPH. AILMER.

I humbly entreat your Lordship and the virtuous Mrs. Ussher, to take up into the coach, which I shall send, my daughter Elizabeth Cole, who I trust will not be unwilling to see those who truly love her.

Hadham, August 30, 1624.

APPENDIX 2.

Extract from Letter No. 374.

The Bishop of Meath to Mr. James Liddall.

Tho' my long sickness hath so impaired me that I cannot write you as large as I would, etc., etc.

Much Hadham, December 22, 1624.

Extract from Letter No. 379.

Sir H. Bourgchier to the Archbishop of Armagh.

I am very glad to understand as I did by Sir R. Cotton and others that you have lost the Company of that unwelcome guest your ague for divers days, and thus desiring to have my love and service presented to Mrs. Ussher as also to Gerrard Harvey and my Lord, I will ever remain

Your Graces most affectionate friend and humble servant,

Henry Bourgchier.

London, 12 *May*, 1625.

These letters show that the Bishop had been laid up with ague for a long time prior to December, 1624. His appointment as Archbishop of Armagh was between December, 1624, and May, 1625.

Also it seems highly probable that at the date when the last-mentioned letter was written, the archbishop was living at Much Hadham, whether or not as the guest of Sir Gerrard Harvey is not clear, or he would not have been made the medium of conveying a message to the latter, who at the date in question was probably living at Moor Place.

APPENDIX 3.

Copy of Inscription on the Tomb of Dr. Henry Atkins in St. Mary's Church, Cheshunt, Herts.

Henry Atkins Dr of Physiq, Physician in Ordinary for the space of 32 yeares to King James and King Charles, was the son of Richard Atkins of Great Barkhamsted in ye County of Harford Gent. and dyed anº 1635 aged 77 and lyeth heere interred in this vault which hee caused to bee made anº 1623 for himselfe and his only wife Mary (whome hee then buryed here aged 56) whoe was daughter of Thomas Pigot of Dodershall in the County of Bucks, Esquire. They had issue only one son Sr Henry Atkins, Kt whoe

dwelling at Clapham in the County of Surry dyed an° 1638 aged 44, and lyes there buryed by his owne appointment.

On a lower part of the structure appears the names of various other members of the family subsequently buried here.

FROM THE EXTINCT BARONETAGE.

Atkins.
ci. 13 June 1660.
ex. 10 June 1756.

I 1660 Richard Atkins of Clapham Surrey Esq. 1st surviving son and heir of Sir Henry Atkins of the same by Arabella daughter and sole heiress of John Hawkins of Chiddingstone Kent, which Henry was son and heir of Henry Atkins M.D. Physician to James I. was probably the Richard Atkins of Balliol College, Oxford, and who was aged 14 in 1629.

Succeeded his father 3rd July 1638, was Sheriff of Bucks. 1649–50 being of Newport Pagnell in that county and was created a baronet 13th June 1660.

He married in or before 1655 Rebecca daughter and co-heiress of Sir Edmund Wright, otherwise Buckley of Swakeleys in Ickenham Middlesex, some time Lord Mayor of London, by his second wife Jane, daughter of William Mills. He died and was buried 24 August 1689 at Clapham.

HENRY ATKINS
Physician
died 1635.

HENRY of Clapham, Surrey. Died 1638, aged 44. *m.* ARABELLA daughter and sole heiress of John Hawkins, of Chiddingstone, Kent.

RICHARD succeeded his father 3rd July 1638. Sheriff of Bucks 1649–50 of Newport Pagnell in that county. Died 19th August, 1689, buried at Clapham. *m.* before 1655 Rebecca daughter of Sir Edmund Wright otherwise Buckley of Swakeleys in Ickenham, Middlesex. Lord Mayor of London.

The visitation (by the Heralds) of Herts, 1634 (to be found in the Harleian Manuscripts), states with reference to the Moore family of Much Hadham as follows:—

WILLIAM MOORE *m.* Sarah dau. of Clement Newce of Co. Hertford.

Frances	Adelina	Mary	William
m.	*m.*	*m.*	*m.*
Wm. Roberts of London.	W. Billingsley of Rutland.	Clement Pagenham of Lincoln.	(1) Margarett dau. of — Torse of Utrick in the Low Countries. (2) Hester dau. of Claus la Meere of Dunhage.

According to the Visitation of 1634, the Moore family bore arms as follows:—

Arms.—Argent, Guttée de Sang, and 2 chevrons Gules.

Crest.—Out of the top of a Mural Tower Gules, a lion rampant gardant Or, supporting a banner Argent, Guttée de Sang, thereon the arms, the staff Sable.

F. H. NORMAN.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN, BARKWAY.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and consists of a nave having an arcade of six bays with clerestory, north and south aisles, vestry, chancel, south porch, and tower at the west end.

Of the original Norman, or possibly Saxon church, there is apparently no trace; between the years 1200 and 1300 the chancel of this early church was rebuilt.

Previous to the reign of Richard II the church appears to have consisted of nave and chancel only; about the year 1378 the nave was taken down, and the building probably assumed its present form, with the exception perhaps of the vestry. Chauncy (1700), Salmon (1728), Coles (1747), and Clutterbuck do not mention this vestry; Cussans, who wrote about 1872, describes it as a transept.

Edward VI's commissioners in the year 1552 reported that "the Parishioners of Barkway haue sold from their church, a challyse, a pix, a paxe, and a Sensor of Silluer, for the sum xx *li* iij *s* —*d* which money thei say was imployde vppon the reparacions of the said churche."

The late Hon. Mrs. Vernon Harcourt undertook the restoration of the nave and aisles in 1861. During this work an attempt was made to enlarge the Jennings vault, which is under that erection of questionable taste in the tower. This is supposed to have cracked the walls and rendered rebuilding necessary; another account is that the workmen, thinking a new tower would be desirable, removed some of the buttresses, with the result that the sides collapsed. The base of a large finial from the tower is in the possession of a local inhabitant, and the top of this or another finial is at the Manor House.

If we examine the east window of the north aisle and notice the other windows of both aisles, it will be seen that they are precisely similar, and might have been moulded by machinery. From Salmon's description of one of the old windows it appears probable that some of the present windows are not reproductions, and if the two old window heads on the lawn at the Manor House were taken from the aisles this probability becomes a certainty.

The font is modern. The Rev. W. Coles, who wrote in 1747, says "the old stone font stands against the last pillar on South side of nave"; from this circumstance it was probably of the same date as the pillars, viz. Perpendicular. That font is believed to have been used to mend the roads with, in 1861.

There is fortunately in existence one view of the church as it appeared in the year 1797; it is in the Pridmore Collection in the possession of Baron Dimsdale.

The one redeeming feature of this 'restoration' was the removal of two large pews; the one which belonged to Cockenhatch, extended across the chancel arch like a rood-loft, the servants' pews being in the chancel just beneath; the other belonged to Lord Selsey, and filled the whole of the east bay of the south aisle. Some of the fine Tudor carving still survives in the place; the remainder was presented by Mrs. Vernon Harcourt to the then Vicar, and at the sale of his effects it seems to have disappeared from the neighbourhood.

In the east wall of the north aisle (where there was probably an altar of St. John the Baptist) two groups of alto relievo figures, carved in Italian alabaster, were discovered, one representing the Holy Family and the other the Decollation of St. John the Baptist. Each group was about a foot in height and 15 inches long, the principal figures being embellished with ornaments and aureoles of solid gold; they were removed to Newsells, and now all trace of them has vanished.

At the east end of the south aisle was the Chantry Chapel of the Virgin Mary, but the only remaining feature is the piscina in the south wall.

In the Certificate of Guilds returned in 1388 (Chancery Certif. of Guilds, No. 64), there is mention of the Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Barkway, from which we learn that the brothers and sisters paid towards the celebration of masses to the honour of the Blessed Mary, the Virgin, every Sunday ½*d.* each, and defrayed the cost of five lights before the image of the Virgin in the church of Barkway for so long as there remained ten members of the fraternity.

Upon the day of the burial of any member, each brother or sister was to offer ¼*d.*, and pay 1*d.* for masses for the soul of the departed; the surviving members should see to the proper burial of any brother or sister who should happen to die within 10 miles of Barkway.[1]

[1] Notes on Chantries and Guilds of Herts, by W. Page, F.S.A., p. 69; Middlesex and Herts N. & Q., viii, 1897.

The chancel was restored at Colonel Clinton's expense (being appendant to Cockenhatch) by the same architect (Benjamin Ferrey) and at the same time, but escaped more lightly than the nave.

The window in the south-east corner seems to be a low-side one, but increased to double its proper height; there is a priests' door on the same side, a piscina, and a lancet window; on the north side are two filled-in lancets.

A number of earthenware jars were discovered in the walls of the chancel at the restoration, nearly on the level of the floor; similar vessels have frequently been found in other churches, and much diversity of opinion exists as to the purpose for which they were intended. They are usually of common brown earthenware, glazed within, about a foot long, 6 inches in diameter across the mouth, and 8 or 9 inches across the middle, resembling the common domestic vessel known as bellarmines or greybeards (so called from a bearded mark on the neck); others resemble Roman amphorse with narrow mouths and bases, and capacious bodies. They are always found lying on their sides with their mouths inwards, and are seldom flush with the wall, but usually sunk 2 or 3 inches within its face. In 1854, ten of these vessels were found in the walls of the choir of St. Mary's, Youghal, co. Cork, placed at a considerable distance above the floor-line. In 1851 a number of similar jars were brought to light under the stalls of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. It has been suggested that they were used for ventilation; another supposition is that they were placed in the walls for the purpose of assisting the acoustic effect of the building, and another conjecture is that they were intended as depositories of the ashes of the heart[1] or other portions of the bodies of dignitaries connected with the church.[2]

The workmen broke these jars, probably in the hope of finding hidden treasure; many of the fragments were in the late Rector's possession, but were dispersed with his other effects.

There are two brasses, one a small inscription only, in the chancel, the other to R. Poynard, his two wives and four children, on the wall of the south aisle, which are fully described in Mr. W. F. Andrews' "Brasses of Hertfordshire." The Poynard brass was found under the floor in 1861; there were formerly many others, for Salmon, writing in 1728, says, "In this church are a great many old stones; but the brasses have been most carefully

[1] But if so, an expert on this matter asks, why are they always empty and on their sides?

[2] Cussans, vol. i, p. 33.

taken away from every one of them"; and even the matrices have now gone. Of the other memorials little need be said; a laudatory style, in which small regard can have been had for truth, being their chief characteristic.

The rood-loft doorway remains on the south side of the chancel arch. By a fortunate chance a large number of grotesque corbels and heads, some of which support the roof brackets, have been allowed to remain; two, however, were removed from the church, and are inserted in the wall of a cottage in the village. The label termination (over the piers) is peculiar; the end is apparently broken (it may have originally been deeply undercut), but the unusual point is, that the small head which should terminate the label is an inch or more below it.

The main beams of the roof are ancient. On the south wall of the north aisle there are seven corbels which will repay careful examination; two of these bear shields.

The lofty tower arch is a characteristic feature of the Perpendicular period.

If the glass of the east window of the south aisle is examined, it will be seen at once that it is not an ordinary design, but contains part of four or more windows.

The mixture of saints, kings, legends, some pieces upside down, others inside out, with portions of very crude modern glass, is an example of glaziers' art as understood in the year 1861.

The original design of the window consisted of St. Peter on one side, two shields in the centre, one bearing the arms of Scales, Gules, six Escallop shells argent, 3, 1, and 2 (not usually borne in that manner); the other, Gules, on a chevron argent, three roses of the field for Knollys, on the other side St. Andrew.

A window in the north aisle contained St. George and the Dragon, a bishop with crosier, a figure of an old man with a long staff presenting a child to another figure,[1] and the following arms: "Gules, on 2 bars argent, 5 lozenges, 2 and 3, in a canton or, a Saracen's head, azure [Coles describes this as a leopard's face], a crescent for difference, for Geary."

The next window to the west, Coles describes as follows:—"In a north window of the North aisle is an old kind of escocheon supported by an angel, within a sort of fortified place lies a man at length, and a person looking over the wall; from the chief part of the shield and at the base without the wall, lies another man at

[1] These two figures remain, but have been cut to fit part of the tracery in the east window of the north aisle.

his length. The whole a good deal worn by time and no colours but or and argent."

That description is rather puzzling until you see Coles' drawing; from this it appears that the design of the window was the Virgin of Pity, resembling that on the brass of Andrew Evengar at All Hallows Barking; the "sort of fortified place" (which is a semi-circle in front of the two figures) would resemble the top of the bracket on the Evengar brass, the man "lying outside the wall" was probably the donor of the window; this was perhaps the work of a Dutch or German artist. The angel described by Coles would occupy the position of the base of the bracket on the brass.

Another window represented the six days of the creation of the world. Salmon describes it as follows:—"In one pane at top is a corporeal representation of the Deity as a Man in a loose Robe down to His feet, with the globe of Earth before Him, and under, 'De opere primi diei.' The next pane has the same with His hand expanded, standing upon the firmament in the midst of the Waters, underneath 'De opere secundae diei.' The third has the same Figure amongst green trees and herbs; but the legend is lost. Three other panes are in order under these, but the painting of the Fourth is lost. In the fifth is the same Figure with birds flying about Him, a part only of the sixth remains, where fowls and beasts are brought to Adam to be named."

There are now eight bells in the tower.

In 1552 there were "v belles in the steple." Chauncy, writing in 1700, mentions a ring of five bells, and a turret on the tower wherein is a clock bell; but in 1797 four of these pre-restoration bells were recast by Briant of Hertford, and two new bells added.

The bell that formerly hung in the turret is inscribed: "James Bartlet made me, 1698. T. E.," and is now used as a priest's bell.

The remaining pre-Reformation bell is the sole representative in the county of the Bury St. Edmunds foundry; it is inscribed in black letter "Ave Maria Gracia Plena," the capital G and final *a* being upside down. The Bury shield is stamped three times on the crown of the bell; the name of the original possessor of this foundry mark, whose initials were H. S., has not been ascertained; it is evident, however, from the cannon and cannon-ball on the shield that he cannot be placed earlier than about 1450, when cast ordnance was introduced into the country.

The list of Vicars dates from about 1190, commencing with Askeline. In the year 1800 the Vicarage was united with the Rectory of Reed.

Dr. Peter Smith, instituted Vicar on 18th January, 1610, was

summoned to the Westminster Assembly of Divines in 1643; this assembly consisted of eight Scottish Commissioners, appointed to treat with the English Parliament (or assembly for the Union of England and Scotland) for one form of Kirk government. It had been intended that 121 English clergy should take part, but their average attendance was only about 60; the proceedings lasted five years, and resulted in the ejection of abont 7,000 clergy.

Mr. Smith preached to the Members of the House of Commons on 29th May, 1644, taking as his text Ps. cvii, 6; he may have chosen this text on account of the Parliamentary outlook not being very hopeful. This gave great satisfaction to the Members; at the commencement of the printed sermon are these words: "Die Mercurii 29. 5. 1644. It is this day ordered by the Commons in Parliament that Master Rous doe from this House give thanks unto Dr. Smith for the great paines hee tooke in the sermon hee preached this day at the intreaty of this House at S. Margaret's in the City of Westminster (it being the day of publique Humiliation) and to desire him to print his sermon."

The Rector of Barley (Thorndike), being a Royalist, was ejected in 1647–8; there is an entry in the Journal of the House of Commons, vol. v, p. 463, to the effect that "an ordinance for making Peter Smith, a member of the Assembly of Divines, Rector of Barley, was read."

In the Lansdowne MS., which was compiled about 1654 as a guide to the Commissioners appointed for ejecting ignorant and undesirable ministers, is the entry "Mr. Thomas Fyddes, a constant preacher is vic:"

Dr. T. Smoult, Vicar from 1666 to 1694, was Casuistical Professor at Cambridge; after leaving Barkway he was Chaplain to William and Mary, and Queen Anne. There is a tablet to his memory on the north side of the chancel, but he is buried in the churchyard.

The registers of baptisms and marriages date from 1697, the register of deaths from 1627.

H. P. Pollard.

Engraved by J. and H. S. Storer. *Published Oct. 1, 1823.*

HERTINGFORDBURY CHURCH, 1903.

HERTINGFORDBURY CHURCH.

THIS building is supposed to date from the fifteenth century, and consists of a nave with arcade of four bays, a north aisle, a chancel, which is Early English, and a chapel on the north side, which is the mortuary chapel of the Cowper family. There is a porch and vestry on the south side, and an embattled tower with spire, containing five bells and a clock. According to some authorities the church had a double dedication, that of St. Mary and of St. John, but the former is now only recognized; and as can be seen by the cardinal points on the tower, the building does not stand directly east and west.

A church seems to have stood on this spot as early as the thirteenth century, the name of the first rector being that of Richard de Wakeryng, who was instituted in 1239, and died in 1258.

In the ecclesiastical taxation made by order of Pope Nicolas IV, in 1291, the rectory was rated at £8 per annum.

Simon de Hertingfordburie was instituted to the rectory of Digswell, 5th July, 1327.

In the survey made upon the Dissolution of Monasteries, the 26th year of King Henry VIII, the rectory was valued in the King's books at £12 15*s.* 2½*d.* per annum.

The Commissioners appointed by Parliament to enquire into the state of ecclesiastical benefices in 1650, certified that the living was worth £150 per annum.

Sir Henry Chauncy, writing in 1700, described the church as being "situated upon a rising ground or small hill of gravel on the east side of the village near the river Mimram, it is covered with lead having a square tower annexed to the West end thereof, and upon the tower the effigies of four nuns are erected upon the four corners of the steeple, with a small spire in the middle: there is an excellent small ring of fine tuneable bells, and in the chancel there are several monuments with inscriptions."

Salmon, in 1728, said: "The Church is in the deanery of Hertford and Archdeaconery of Huntingdon, dedicated to St. Mary. The Rectory is in the Duchy of Lancaster and the Chancellor of

the Duchy presents. There's a good glebe, part of which was given by King John. It is a Manor and has a Royalty. There is a pretty ring of bells. The church standeth upon a pleasant rising ground above the river, which river makes this esteemed one of the pretiest villages in the county."

The church does not seem originally to have possessed any features of archæological interest, or if there were any such they have nearly all disappeared. The only relic of antiquity to be seen is a portion of the piscina, which was found *in situ* in the wall on the south side of the chancel. During the restoration some of the old caps of the original piers of the arches were discovered. These were of clunch, but were too much damaged to be re-used.

Some extensive alterations were carried out in the old church in the year 1845. It was found necessary to take down the arcade between the nave and the aisle, and semicircular arches were built in brickwork on square piers. At this time the pews were mostly square, and there was a gallery in the north aisle. The church is built of flints with stone dressings, and the roof is covered with tiles. The nave is separated from the aisle by four plainly moulded arches and columns, and the tower is open to the church with the exception of a modern carved oak screen. The stone arch separating the church from the tower is of a somewhat early date. The modern roof is open, and is constructed of varnished oak. In the tower is a doorway leading to the stairs of the belfry, and notice-boards concerning the parochial charities are fixed on the walls.

In 1890 the church was found to be in a bad condition throughout, and the Right Hon. Earl Cowper, K.G., generously undertook the cost of restoration. It was ascertained that both externally and internally the fabric required strengthening, and practically rebuilding, and this being done, the church was reopened for Divine Service in April, 1891.

The windows of the east end were not interfered with, most of the other windows had the stonework repaired, but the west window is new. The size of most of the windows, as well as their architecture, varies considerably, having been constructed at different periods. The old roof, both of the church and chancel, was in a rotten state, and is now quite new, as well as the upper portion of the walls. The arches between the nave and the aisle, and the chancel arch, are also new. The battlements on the walls of the tower, as well as the steeple, were found to be in a bad condition, and have been renewed, and the old tower was stripped of the plaster with which it was covered. A few pieces of the old

stonework can be seen in the south-east and north-west angles, the remainder being new. The mark of the Ordnance Survey is cut on the old stone in a buttress at the south corner, and another old stone close to it has an inscription and date, "James Clark, 1777." On the south side there are a number of marks on the plinth which are thought by some to have been caused by the sharpening of arrows in olden times, or they may have been made by village youths indulging in mischievous propensities at different periods.

The clock was presented to the parish many years ago by the late Mr. Thomas Newman, an old parishioner, who lived at the mill in the village, and died in 1870, aged 88.

The tower is also constructed of flints with stone dressings, and has a stone plinth with two string courses at various heights. The spire is covered with lead, and has a weather-cock and cardinal points. There are two small windows on each side of the belfry, and a larger one with two lights above, in addition to the large two-light window on the west side.

During the alterations the old tie-beams at the top of the tower were removed, and from the position of the old mortice holes in them the height and size of the present spire were calculated, and it was constructed accordingly. Formerly the tower was surmounted by what is known as the 'Hertfordshire spike,' which at some time must have taken the place of the original spire. Perhaps it is needless to say that the four nuns mentioned by Chauncy disappeared years ago.

The piscina in the chancel has a double canopy, and is supposed to represent the original. A portion of the lower part of it, with the base of one of its small columns, a part of one of the arches with the head of a figure, and a piece of the ornamental moulding, belong to an early period, but the remainder of the stonework is new. Double piscinas are only found in a few churches in this county.

The chancel has a three-light window at the east end, and a lancet window on each side.

In the vestry is an old ornamental oak chair which was formerly within the communion rails.

The interior of the church presents a beautiful appearance and will be much admired by all, except perhaps antiquarians and archæologists. Everything within the building is new, and no expense has been spared in permanently rendering it a suitable place for public worship. The seats are of oak with carved ends, the ornamental portions being the work of the late Josef Mayr, of Oberammergau; the reading-desks and choir-stalls are also of

carved oak, while the pulpit, lectern, communion rails, double sedilia, and handsome reredos are all of alabaster, the chancel steps being of marble. The church does not possess much stained glass, and this is all modern.

The organ was placed in the old church about 1875, but was much enlarged in 1891. The splendid font, which has recently been placed in the south-west corner, is of alabaster, beautifully carved. It is octagonal in shape and each panel is ornamented, and the square pedestal has a figure at each angle. The previous font was presented to a Mission Church in London a short time ago.

The mausoleum on the north side of the chancel is the burial-place of several members of the Cowper family, who own the Panshanger estate adjoining the village. The present mansion is situated in the parish of St. Andrew, Hertford, but the old house formerly stood near Cole Green, in the parish of Hertingfordbury, therefore the burial-place is here. The mausoleum is separated from the church and chancel by handsome ironwork, and has two small lancet windows with stained glass. The walls are of flint and stone outside and stone inside, with ornamental pillars and arches, and handsome groined ceiling.

The communion plate is stated by Cussans to consist of a flagon and paten bearing date 1675, and weighing 51 oz. 10 dwts., and 45 oz. 8 dwts. respectively; a chalice and cover of the same date weighing 21 oz. 11 dwts., and another chalice and cover dated 1706, weighing 22 oz. 5 dwts., the latter being probably the gift of Mrs. Wallinger, whose name occurs on a stone on the chancel floor.

The registers date from the year 1679, and are in good condition.

There was originally a small brass with an inscription in Norman French, and read:—

> "Phelip t Isabel filles a Robert de
> Louthe giset icy Dieu de lō almes eit m'cy."

Clutterbuck and Chauncy add the following inscription:—

> "Robert de Lowthe et Johane sa feme gisent icy
> Dieu de ses aimes eut mercy."

At Tewin is an inscription on an old stone to a Walter de Louthe, who was Rector there from 1312 to 1356. The Manor of Ludwyk, near Hatfield, belonged to the family in 1329; Roger de Luda, or Louth, represented this county in Parliament from 1336 to 1352, and a Robert was living at Hertingfordbury about 1480. Robert

de Louth was M.P. for Herts in 1353, and Robert de Louth also in 1383 and 1384.

Another brass plate is inscribed:—"Here vnder this stone lye bvried the bodyes of Thomas Ellis, Gentleman, (Sonne of Stephen Ellis of Kennynton in the Covntye of Kent Gentleman) and Grace his wife (daughter of Owen Hawkins, Citizen & Mercer of London) who lived togeather man & wife xlix yeares & vii monethes and odd dayes, and had issve betwixt them one Sonne onlye named Fravncis (which lived but three weekes & three dayes after his birth) the aforesaide Thomas departed this life the iiiith day of Febrvary 1608, and the saide Grace afterwards departed this life the 23 day of March An Dñi 1612."

Cussans says that Grace Ellis, widow, by will dated February, 1613, left £2 annually to the poor of the parish, and Chauncy adds "upon the Anniversary day of her Burial for ever."

A shield of arms in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries, London, was formerly in this church, which has on the reverse side the figures of a group of children, c. 1460.

There is a monument on the north wall of the church to Thomas Keightley and his wife, and on the inscription the name of one of the sons is given as William. This is interesting from the fact that in Evelyn's Diary is a note dated March 10th, 1643, in which he says he had just arrived at "Hertingfordberry to visit my cousin Keightly." And on March 16th he says, "William Keightly to have a Warrant to pass into France." This was a period of troublesome times during the great Civil War, in which many Hertfordshire clergymen and noblemen were concerned. The Keightley family were owners of the park adjoining the churchyard, and lived in an old mansion there which was pulled down many years ago.

On the floor of the tower is an altar-tomb composed of various coloured marbles, with the effigies of a gentleman and lady in winding-sheets, their heads resting on cushions, and a female child at their feet in the attitude of prayer. An inscription above the tomb is to the memory of Sir William Harrington, who lived in the adjoining park and was M.P. for Hertford in the time of King Charles I. He was knighted at Royston in 1615.

Also another altar-tomb to Annie, the wife of Sir G. Calvert, 1622. The figure is shown as wearing an ornamented dress, with a long mantle and a ruff.

On the chancel floor is a stone to the memory of Walter Wallinger, who died in 1709, and gave the interest of £400 for apprenticing poor children of the parish. His wife, who died in

1712, gave to the church a silver chalice and paten, a cloth and napkins for the communion table, a velvet cloth and cushion for the pulpit, and a Bible and two Prayer Books.

There are several memorial tablets on the walls of the building, among them being one to Sir F. A. Gore Ouseley, Bart., the musical composer, who lived at Woolmers Park in this parish, and was the author of the tune known as "Woolmers," in Hymns Ancient and Modern.

In the Mausoleum can be seen a beautiful monument of white marble to the memory of Spencer Cowper, Esq., and his two wives. He was grandfather of Cowper the poet, and died in 1727.

In Burke's Peerage it is stated that "this highly respectable judge was perhaps the only instance of an English advocate being tried for his life and afterwards sitting himself on the Judicial Bench. Mr. Spencer Cowper, when a young man and a barrister on the Home Circuit, was arraigned at the Hertford Assizes 16th July, 1699, on the capital charge of murdering Miss Sarah Stout, whose death was clearly the result of suicide. Mr. Cowper was honorably acquitted. The trial made an immense sensation at the time." He afterwards resumed his practice at the Bar, was elected M.P. for Berealstone (*sic*), was made a judge, and was mercifully inclined when he presided over trials for murder, as he remembered the peril through which he himself had passed.

The father of the poet Cowper was Rector of St. Peter's, Great Berkhamstead; he died in 1756, aged 62 years, and was buried in the family vault in Hertingfordbury Church.

There is also a very fine marble monument to the memory of William, Earl Cowper, with a medallion portrait. He died in 1764. And another monument to George Augustus Frederick, the sixth Earl Cowper, who died in 1856.

In 1552 there were in the church three bells and a 'saunce' bell, but these had been changed before 1700 to the five tuneable bells mentioned by Chauncy. Three of these were afterwards recast or changed according to the following account, written in 1886, but they still retain their pleasant sounds which are often heard along the valley at Hertford.

No. 1, inscribed "Johannes Waylett, Fecit, 1706."
No. 2, ,, "Wm. Clarke, Overseer, T. Lester, Fecit, 1750."
No. 3, ,, "John Briant, Hertford, Fecit, 1823."
No. 4, ,, "O Praise the Lord for His Goodness and declare His w . . . , 1656."
No. 5, ,, "Icepe Dulce Sequar, W. Whitmore for John Hudson, 1656."

John Waylett, the founder of No. 1 bell, also founded 25 other bells for churches in this county, between 1706 at Hertingfordbury, and 1730, which date is inscribed on the tenor bell at Bishop's Stortford.

Thomas Lester, the founder of bell No. 2, had his foundry at Whitechapel, and supplied the county with 16 bells.

The maker of No. 3, John Briant, was a noted founder, and lived at Hertford, where he carried on business for many years, and died at St. Albans.

The inscription on bell No. 4 is not complete, and would probably have included the words "His works" or "His wonders" if there had been sufficient space for them.

In 1891 bell No. 2 was cracked, and was therefore recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and is inscribed with the names of their firm.

John Hudson, the founder of No. 5 bell, had his foundry in London, and the W. Whitmore whose name is also upon it was his foreman. This is the tenor bell and weighs 9½ cwt.

A note appeared in a local newspaper of 4th January, 1890, which stated "that there was then lying at the north side of the old church a large boulder of what is believed to be Millstone Grit 3 ft. 6 in. long, 3 ft. 9 in. wide, and 2 ft. thick, subangular and very hard. It formed the base of a buttress, and has no doubt been there for a very long time. It is supposed to have been brought into the neighbourhood during the Glacial age." This enormous stone can now be seen just outside the fence on the north side of the churchyard. It may probably have been the foundation stone of the original church, as similar stones of different material are to be seen under the walls of churches at Hemel Hempstead and Tewin.

The picturesque burial-ground surrounding the church, in which so many of the "forefathers of the hamlet sleep," was found to be too small for the parish, so it was enlarged in 1893, when the Rector presented additional ground from his glebe land adjoining.

There is an ancient yew-tree and a cluster of old chestnut-trees on the south side of the churchyard, which also contains many memorials of the dead, both illustrious and humble, who having served their day and generation "fell on sleep" in their quiet resting-places in this secluded spot.

A short time ago two old cottages which stood at the south-west corner were removed, and the ground added to the churchyard, from which it appears to have been originally taken.

A woman who obtained a good deal of notoriety is also said to be buried here. In Clutterbuck's History of the County we read that "Jane Wenham was tried at the Assizes at Hertford on May 14th, 1711, for practising witchcraft and sorcery at Walkern, and was found guilty and sentenced to death. Justice Powell, who tried the case, reported it favourably to the Queen, who granted her a pardon. After this time she lived at Hertingfordbury, where she was supported by the charity of Colonel Plumer of Gilston, and after his death by that of Earl and Countess Cowper and their family. She died 11th June, 1730, and was decently buried in the churchyard of Hertingfordbury, on the following Sunday her funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Squire, the then curate, to a numerous congregation."

There is no entry of the burial of this poor woman in the register of the church, but the Rev. Mr. Squire was curate here from 1720 to 1760, and a stone was erected to his memory in the churchyard.

W. F. Andrews.

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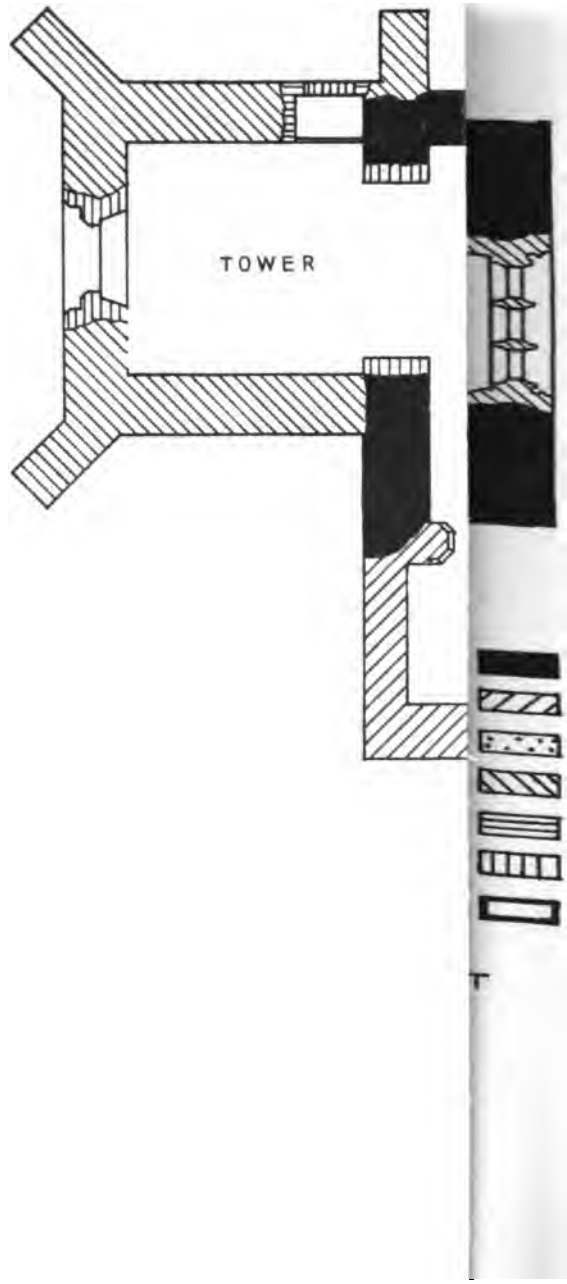

TOWER

TEWIN CHURCH.

In Domesday Book Peter of Valoines is entered as a landowner in Tewin. Did he build the church and dedicate it to St. Peter? The Norman window which has been found in the north wall of the edifice shows that the walls of the nave and probably those of the chancel also, were built in his time, but no other features of the Norman church are now visible.

The blank north wall of the chancel may carry us back farther, if the Bishop of Bristol's theory is accepted. He says that "the first sacred place in a parish was generally the churchyard." When the church was built it would be placed on the northern edge of the ground so that the sun might not be shut out from any graves. No windows would be opened (at least in the chancel) upon the unconsecrated ground to the north, nor even afterwards, when the churchyard was enlarged, would graves be made in the shadow of the church on that side. The north wall and the arrangement of the graves may therefore witness to an early Saxon burying-ground. In the chancel is a stone inscribed "Orate pro anima Walteri de Louthe," which was moved into the aisle some years ago and recently restored to its original position. Walter de Louthe was the second of the rectors whose names have been preserved. He was instituted April 15th, 1312, on the death of William de Hereford, the church then belonging to the Prior and Convent of St. Bartholomew in London. By his time considerable additions and changes had taken place. The south aisle and the Early English arcade, with clerestory windows above, had been built, traces of which windows can now be seen. The two lancets in the chancel which have been re-opened, the piscina, the lancets of the aisle, and the re-opened north door in the nave belong to this period. On the jamb of the door one of those small crosses may be seen which are often found in this position on these doors, but generally on the east side. This stone was, by a mistake of the mason, put on the west side when the door was restored. The chancel arch too had probably taken the place of

some such low and narrow arch as we see in Bengeo Church.[1] It should be noticed that the arch in the western bay of the arcade is not chamfered on the south side like the others: does this mean that an upper chamber of some kind was made behind it?

No traces of Decorated work remain, but in the fifteenth century as many changes were made in Tewin Church as in others. The east window, the south-west window of the chancel, the nave windows, and the east window of the aisle may probably be assigned to this period, though the work in some of them is so rude that they may be Laudian. In this century also the tower was built, and the south porch with its inner door. This porch was closed up in later times and used as a receptacle for a large monument of Joseph Sabine, one of Marlborough's generals, who lived in the house in the Warren close by the church. It was impossible to find another place for this fine piece of sculpture, and it still remains in the porch, which, however, has been restored to its proper use by the formation of a side entrance; an ingenious plan suggested by a friend of the rector.[2]

Of the rood screen, which must have been used in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, nothing remains, but traces of the fifteenth century staircase may be seen in the north wall of the nave, and two holes in the west pier of the arcade seem to have been connected with it. A few scraps of paint were found in the splay of the chancel lancets when they were opened, but no other trace of painting appeared in any part of the church. Possibly something of the kind may be concealed in the Norman window, which is still filled up on the inside.

The niche in the second pier probably contained an image of St. Christopher, and below the niche the hole may be seen where the rod was inserted as support for a light before it.

Nothing is known of the effect of the Reformation in Tewin, except that the advowson then came into the hands of John Cock, of Broxbourne. No rectors' names are preserved between Edmund Ackeroyd, who was instituted in 1532 (and may have been the first priest to read the service in English here), and Dr. Thomas Montfort, who died in 1632. In 1610, however, Thomas Pygott,

[1] This Early English arch is curiously one-sided. An exactly similar construction may be seen in the chancel arch of St. Michael's Church, St. Albans. Here it is matched by the one-sided monument at the west, which breaks the monotony of the white walls by the bright colours of the Warren arms.

[2] To the east of this inner doorway there is a stoup, which is like much of the ancient work in this church; very rude. The beams across the nave seem to show that alterations took place in the roof also at this period.

gent., died, being 70 years old. A charity in Tewin bears his name, which is also preserved by a small brass in the aisle. This brass is inscribed, "Whose ancestors remayned dwellinge in this towne three hundred years and upwards," a rather curious expression, which is explained by his will. He left his executors a sum of money on condition that they erected a fair monument to his memory, setting out on it his pedigree for 300 years. The executors bought the cheapest brass they could, inscribed it as before mentioned, and, we may suppose, received their money.

There is a large slab to the memory of Dr. Thomas Montfort in the sanctuary, and another to his son, Dr. John Montfort, who is described in the register as *hujus ecclesiae patronus*. The date would allow of this Dr. Thomas being the Dr. Thomas Montfort who owned the famous "Codex Montfortianus," now in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. This was the MS, on the production of which, Erasmus inserted the text of the "Three Heavenly Witnesses" (1 John v, 8) in the second edition of his Greek Testament. Thence it descended to the Authorised Version, though it is again omitted in the Revised Version. Erasmus had left it out of his first edition, but promised to put it in, if a single Greek MS were produced which contained it. This MS was produced, and he kept his word, against his critical judgment. Dr. Thomas was succeeded as rector by his son, James Montfort or Monford, as he sometimes wrote his name. He has signed it at the bottom of the first ten pages of the register, and under it we read the signature of his churchwarden, Edmond Asser. It is interesting to note how the 'parson' uses the new Italian hand, while the churchwarden keeps to the old Gothic. Now came the troubled times of Charles I. There are inscriptions to servants of his, the Botelers, cadets of the Hatfield family of that name.[1] They lived at Queen Hoo Hall, and became patrons of the living, buying the advowson from Dr. Richard Rainsford, a connection of the Montforts. But before that happened James Montfort was ejected by the Puritans in 1643. The exile of this family did not last long. In 1651, we read in the register, that Mr. Henry Raynsford, rector of this parish, was buried. His relative, Dr. John Montfort, who built the house in the Warren,[2] died a few months later, and on his tombstone there is a curious inscription. Besides other examples of what we should call conceits, the date is given thus,

[1] The curious heraldry of Edward Boteler's memorial in the sanctuary seems to be due to the ignorance or carelessness of the carver.

[2] After passing through the families of Gore, Sabine, and Schreiber, it was pulled down by the fifth Earl Cowper in the nineteenth century.

"Anno Restaurationis, 1651." This is a beautiful but unusual expression for the year of our Lord. The year of Restoration was also the name given to the year in which clergymen were allowed to return to their churches and read the Prayer Book, on the easy condition of promising to obey the existing Government, but it may be thought that the composer of this inscription intended also a special reference to the restoration of his family to its rights and duties.[1]

No doubt Tewin Church suffered a good deal at the hands of the Puritans. Perhaps some of the rude work of the fifteenth century to which reference has been made, is even later than Laud's time, and is due to repairs found necessary after these troubles were over. Certainly the old Communion plate, and everything else that was valuable and ornamental have disappeared. Four pieces of marble with Gothic moulding on them have been found lately, three under the floor, and one used as a tile for the repairing of the tower, and, as there is no trace of any altar tomb, they may be pieces of the old altar slab.

The communion-table is of Jacobean design, and as there is no entry to be found in the churchwardens' accounts (which date back to 1741) of its purchase, or of the evident alteration which in the past it has undergone, we may with some confidence date it as being work of the latter part of the seventeenth, or the early years of the eighteenth century. Between 1651 and 1728 there were three rectors who did much for the church: Dr. Fulk Tudor, who died in 1688, gave or left as a legacy the fine silver flagon and large chalice and paten which are now in use; Dr. Charles Proby, whose extensive work on the chancel and rectory is recorded in the register; and Dr. Henry Yarborough. When Dr. Tudor was rector, the "three bells hanging in the steple," and with them perhaps the sanctus bell (all of which, together with two handbells, the church possessed in 1552) were recast into five. No. 1, however, bears a much later date, and seems to have been again recast or replaced. (See "The Church Bells of Hertfordshire," by North and Stahlschmidt.) Somewhere during this period, and probably in consequence of the liberality or energy of one or more of these rectors, the table and the font were given to the church.[2] Dr. Fulk Tudor also enriched

[1] John Montfort is called rector of Tewin by Chauncy, but there is a MS note in the margin of the British Museum copy of his book: "probably James. See 'Walker's Sufferings,' p. 308."

[2] Two chairs for the sanctuary (one of which is too dilapidated to be used) appear to belong to the eighteenth century.

the church with a marble slab in memory of his young wife Alice, the lettering of which, and the drawing of the arms, are very good. Dr. Proby was a remarkable man. He wrote (in a hand almost exactly resembling the larger lettering on his tombstone) a good deal of interesting matter in the register. In these notes he drew, as it were, a portrait of himself; another portrait is given in the epitaph which some friend composed for him, and readers of the register can understand what was meant by saying he was a kind father and clergyman, very good company, and also *propositi tenax* —"not a little obstinate." It is a delightful touch when, to an account of how he forbade a certain notice to be given out during divine service, he adds five years afterwards, "Never was such a publication from that time." He was a kinsman of Dr. Edmond Proby, son of Sir Peter Proby, Lord Mayor of London. This Dr. Edmond gave to his College (Jesus College, Cambridge) the endowment of the Proby Fund for purchasing or augmenting College livings. From this fund the College bought the advowson of Tewin from Isabella Hutcheson, daughter of Sir Francis Boteler, and the Master and Fellows are still the patrons.

The repairs and additions to the rectory, which are recorded in the register as made at the beginning of the eighteenth century by Dr. Proby, are the earliest evidence known for the use of the present rectory house. There is a cottage on Tewin Upper Green, attached to the glebe, which is still called the old rectory, and is perhaps the house from which James Montfort was ejected. Dr. Proby made this cottage "almost all new," and built it a barn at a cost of £60. The great barn at his own rectory, which he thatched, the well-house which he set up new and tiled, and some at least of the twenty-six elm-trees which he planted, are still to be seen, but where are the rails and the wainscoting which he added to the chancel?

Before taking leave of Dr. Proby we must notice that in his time the Lady Ann Grimston died. She was buried November 30th, 1717, and a tombstone was erected over the grave in the east part of the churchyard, near the house in the Warren where she lived. Some eighty or ninety years ago sycamore and ash trees grew through the crevices in the stone, lifted up and broke the tomb, and swallowed up, so to speak, a great part of the railings round it. Even then little notice was taken of the strange appearance. The Rev. John Steel, who became curate in Tewin in 1839, was thought to be the first to draw public attention to it. Then a legend which had already belonged to another tomb where the same thing had happened was transferred to Tewin, though there is no reason

whatever for applying its uncharitable report to the lady who was buried there. The outer railings were put up in 1870.

Dr. Tudor was not directly succeeded by Dr. Proby, but by Dr. George Stanhope, who resigned the living (after holding it for thirteen years) in order to become Dean of Canterbury. To quote once more from the register: "Dr. George Stanhope resigned the Rectory of Tewing soon after Harvest 1702. Succeeded by Charles Proby, who paid the Queen's Taxes the Michaelmas following," to which is appended a note, "C. P. thought it a hardship, but 'twas given against him." Stanhope was a learned man, and had a friend in Tewin who was at least a scholar, to whom he dedicated his translation of Epictetus. This was Mr. William Gore, of that Gilston family which had enjoyed the friendship of Bishop Patrick. This Bishop is known to have written a fine Latin epitaph in Gilston Church for the head of the family, and he perhaps wrote the still more beautiful English one for little Bridget Gore. It may be that Dr. Stanhope wrote for his friend William Gore the inscription on the north wall of the chancel with its splendid beginning:—

"Gloria Deo in Excelsis
In spe Resurrectionis ad Vitam aeternam
Per solam Intercessionem Domini Nostri
Jesu Christi."

One other monument deserves to be mentioned. It is on the south wall of the nave, east of the arcade, and is to the memory of Elizabeth Maglin or Malin, the beautiful daughter of a brewer in Battersea, who married first, James Fleet—his monument is in the aisle—then Colonel Sabine, and then Lord Cathcart, and was induced, after she became a widow the third time, to marry Colonel Maguire. She was then possessed of considerable property, having received Tewin Water from her first husband, as well as the house in the Warren from her second. The story need not be retold of her last husband kidnapping her away to Ireland and keeping her shut up in his house there for twenty years, at the end of which she returned to Tewin Water, gave notice to quit to Squire Steel, her deceased husband's tenant, and lived "in great carrecter," keeping a good house, and being very charitable to the poor, for twenty-three years more. It afforded Miss Edgeworth the plot of her novel "Castle Rackrent," but no one who has read the MS account by Mr. Carrington, of Bacon's Farm, will hesitate to confess that truth is often stranger than fiction. I will quote

the end of that account:—"She died on the Monday following, 3rd August 1789 aged 98 years. Buried in Tewin Church in a vault there which was made in the year '33 for her first husband; and only him and his aunt Thornbury and herself in the said vault. She had the said vault opened about two months before her death to see if it wanted any repairs, and cleaned and closed up again. She was as charitable at her Burial as before, for an Invitation was given to all her Neighbours which was on Wednesday 12th August following; upwards of 100 silk hatbands and gloves was given"!!!

Lady Cathcart gave "a Crimson Damask cloth to the Communion Table and a fine Damask Linen: likewise 3 Stool cushions and stuff damask covers to the cushions, in the year of our Lord 1780. Likewise the same Right Honourable Lady gave a new Pulpit cushion with a cover of Crimson velvet, and crimson silk Tassels; likewise a cloth to wrap it in, in the year 1781." These entries in the register are signed by A. Willis, rector. The velvet-covered cushion, though much worn, still exists, and is used in the new pulpit.

We now reach the later history of the church. On January 11th, 1864, a meeting was held, with Lord Cowper in the chair, to consider the propriety of enlargement of the church and repewing for the poor. These last words as we read them in the churchwardens' book suggest, what was in fact the case, that Tewin church had been blocked up with large square pews for the rich. These were now cleared away, and a gallery was erected at the west end. "The church was closed after Sunday, 17th April, 1864, and re-opened on Sunday, 3rd July, 1864." The Architect was Mr. F. Smith, and the builders employed were Messrs. Ekins. It was at this time, I suppose, that the west door was made in the tower. The little vestry on the south side of the chancel was erected in 1857, as recorded on a mirror which now hangs in the new vestry.

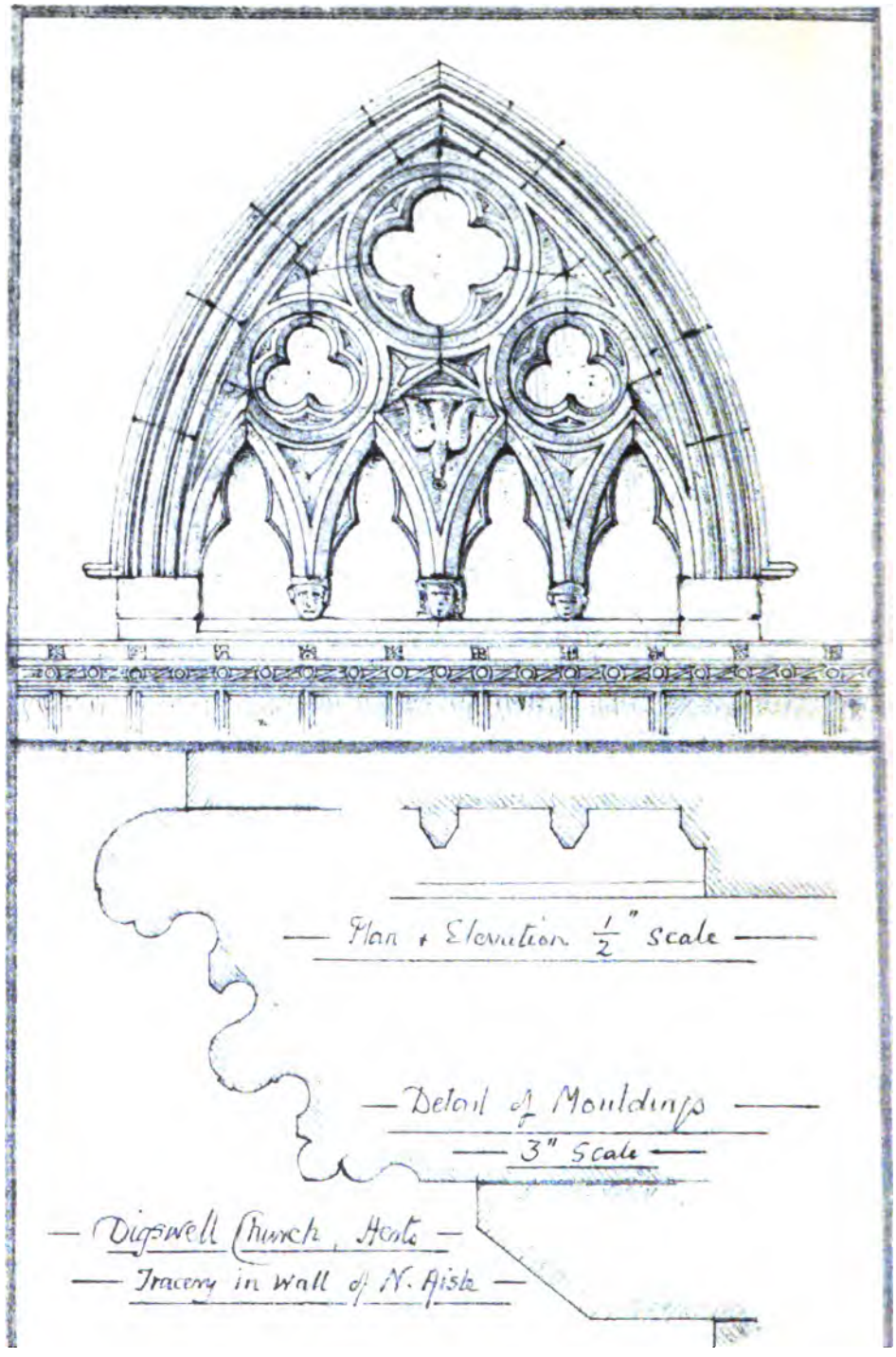
This little vestry was pulled down in the restoration which has just been completed. It was a flimsy building, and blocked the lower part of one of the Early English lancets. This removal, and the cutting of the doorway in the side of the porch, are the only instances in which the fabric of the church has been touched: the door which leads into the new vestry had been made many years ago for the convenience of the occupants of the house in the Warren. An old print shows this door with a mark on the wall above it, which suggests that some kind of a lean-to, or porch, once stood outside it. If so, the new vestry is more

than justified. The last restoration is due to the Cowper family even more than the former, for the present Earl has borne the whole of the very great expense, thus crowning his many acts of generosity to this parish. The architect was Mr. T. D. Atkinson, of Cambridge, Secretary of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. The builders were Messrs. Kett, of Cambridge. Much of their work is invisible, for it is underground; the foundations, especially of the tower, having proved quite unsound. Much also consisted of the re-discovery and careful preservation of ancient features which had been hidden or nearly destroyed. In all their own work the severe, almost rude, character of the ancient building has been respected, and the result is that we now worship in a very beautiful and solemn building.

The square window over the north door shows the scrupulous attention which has been paid to preserving the history of the building. This window was made to give light to the gallery, and it was thought right to keep it as a record of that part of the church's life. In the same way the niche on the south side of the chancel shows where the door opened into the little vestry, and another niche in the south wall of the tower represents a door which once led to a staircase going up to the gallery.

If there was any stained glass in the church in mediæval times none remains. The glass of the east window was put in some twenty years ago by Mr. Burnand, of Tewin Water. That in the fifteenth century chancel window has been given this year (1903) by the children of Mr. Hoare, who was for more than thirty years the much beloved churchwarden of this parish.

A. Nairne.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Detail of Mouldings
3" Scale
Digswell Church, Herts
Tracery in Wall of N. Aisle

DIGSWELL.

Church of St. John the Evangelist.

The earliest mention of the church of St. John the Evangelist at Digswell is in 1144, when Geoffrey de Magnaville (a supporter of Matilda in the Civil War against Stephen) presented it to the Benedictine Abbey of Saffron Walden, which he had founded.

Of the Norman building it is difficult to find any trace, and we can only conjecture that it consisted of nave and chancel, probably of uniform width.

In the thirteenth century the chancel was lengthened, and a narrow north aisle opening into the nave by an arcade of two bays, was added.

There are some who think that about the end of the reign of Edward III a new east window was inserted, and that the lady chapel on the north side of the chancel now forming a continuation of the aisle was also probably built at this time; but others conjecture that the aisle and lady chapel were possibly added in Early Tudor days. All the window heads are 'four-centred' arches, and the corbels and beams in the nave are precisely like those in the lady chapel, the roof of which is Tudor. The aisle before spoken of as added about the end of Edward III's reign must have made way for the present one, and probably in the latter part of the fifteenth century the aisle, lady chapel, side screen, and the squint were completed.

Except for necessary repairs, and possibly the rebuilding of the aisle, the building appears to have remained untouched till 1811, when Archdeacon Watson destroyed nearly every feature of interest in it. In 1874 a restoration took place, which reversed as far as could be, the effect of the Archdeacon's work.

In the nave there are few points of interest. The west window is Early Perpendicular; in the south wall are two of the same date, one being filled with modern glass representing SS. Michael and George; but as to the window between these, which dates from 1811, it is difficult to say which is the worst part of it, the wooden tracery or the glass, both being worthy of Archdeacon Watson's

restoration. Salmon, who wrote about 1728, says, "In the body of the church on the south side, near the pulpit, in a niche, is a stone coffin, close luted down."

Archdeacon Watson cleared away the chancel arch, rood screen, and the arcade between the nave and the aisle. He substituted the low arch, boarded up the west window, filled the chancel and nave with high pews facing the west, in front of a three-decker pulpit. If any projections from the walls occurred they seem to have been destroyed, and whitewash completed the work. Not content with defacing the inside, he covered the outside of the church with a plentiful coat of brown stucco. The Norman font, which was here in 1790, was succeeded about 1795 by a circular shallow bowl supported by a heavy pedestal; this was followed in 1811 by another bowl supported on an hexagonal stem, in what, at that date, was supposed to be the Gothic style, the material being stucco. This now stands in the churchyard, and in 1874 was replaced by the present one.

The roof is of oak, divided into twelve large panels by carved beams, and is whitewashed or painted white.

The north aisle is lighted by two Tudor windows. In the middle of the north wall is an elegantly traceried recess of the Early Decorated period; below are the arches of four lights, and above them the tracery consists of two trefoils and a quatrefoil, whilst the centre is filled by a dove having a ring in its bill. Three small heads form the label terminations, and were possibly taken from the destroyed arcade. This is locally called a founder's tomb, but if that is correct it is certainly unique. If there were a founder's tomb in the church it would be that one before referred to on the south wall of the nave. Salmon and Clutterbuck, who wrote before Watson's time, do not mention this tracery, and the origin of it is a very vexed question. Its date is about 1307, and in support of that it is hardly necessary to say that tracery of the Decorated period falls into two main divisions, the characteristic feature of the earlier one being that the circles, trefoils, or quatrefoils above the heads of the lights do not always join but touch only at the points, as in this example, and from that it may reasonably be inferred that this is not a founder's tomb, and certainly not that of the original founder. The idea of its being an Easter sepulchre has even less foundation.

It is said that when the panelling below this tracery was fixed there were found some remains of a straight joint in the masonry from the sill to the ground. This 'sill' is modern and appears to be of cement, and it is doubtful whether the two square stones

which now support the sides of the tracery ever formed part of the original design. The tower at the west end of the aisle contains three bells. The first is inscribed:—

"T. Mears of London, Fecit, 1829."
2nd. "Praise the Lord, 1605."
3rd. "God save the King, 1605."

The founder of the second and third was Robert Oldfield. At this church the tenor bell is rung for Vestry meetings. The means of access to the belfry is separated from the aisle by an ugly wooden screen of uncertain date, a small portion of which may have formed part of the old Perpendicular rood screen. Another part of the rood screen is at the east end of the aisle under the organ; a third portion being incorporated in the screen dividing the chancel from the chapel, but some consider that the screen between chancel and chapel could never have formed part of the rood screen owing to the height of its panelled skirting, and the smallness of its openings.

In the south-west corner of the chancel are the jambs, sill, and head of an opening, which is roughly 8 ft. 6 in. in height and 3 feet in width, and which seems too much out of proportion in a building of this size for a single window; it might have formed a low-side window which had a large splayed one immediately above it. The three-light window east of this is modern, and contains some good stained glass representing SS. Alban, Helena, and Augustine.

East of this last-mentioned window is a double-arched recess of the Early English period, which is divided by a short pillar into two compartments, in one of which is a piscina having traces of a shelf over it, and the flat surface in the other compartment served the purpose of a credence. Cussans, with some show of probability, calls this a double piscina. The east window is a modern Decorated one containing the adoration of the Lamb. The brasses are fully described in Mr. W. F. Andrews' "Brasses of Hertfordshire."

In the north wall is a recess which Cussans considers served the double purpose of a hagioscope and credence table; if he is correct it would be the credence table for the altar in the lady chapel; it has also been suggested that it was originally a doorway. It was blocked up in 1822 when the fireplace of the vestry was built on the north side of the wall. An arch divides the chancel from the chapel.

At the base of the east window of the chapel, on each side, is a corbel, having on its face a shield bearing the arms of Perient quartered with a cross moline. Salmon says that the same arms were lately in the Perpendicular window in the north wall. The Sarum rite ordered the ornaments to stand "on a beam" *over* the altar, and these corbels would have supported such a beam. A similar case can be seen in the old ruined church at Ayot St. Lawrence, and this would also probably explain the reason for the occurrence of holes for the same in the ruined church at Chisfield. (See *Transactions*, Vol. II, Part 1, p. 19.)

The curiously curved beams and panelling of the roof are very fine, and it is thought that the whole church was once finished in the same manner.

On the outside of the church, at the end of the nave, on either side of the west window, are outlines in the stucco of two windows made by Archdeacon Watson when the window was boarded up; above this window is another very small one which is also his work.

Above this is a Latin Cross with the sacred monogram. The aisle has a gable roof, which is rather an unusual feature in Herts, the majority of them having lean-to roofs.

Edward VI's commissioners found the following goods here:—[1]

p'ecclia. It. prmis one chalyce of silu poz troy xvj oz.
It one vestment of rede damaske.
It one other vestment of blew silke.
It one other vestment of grene silke.
It one cope of tawny Saten.
It ij altar clothes.
It ij curtens of silke.
It one crose cloth of rede silke.
Itē one crose of Latyne.
It ij handebelles.
It iij lytell belles in the steple.

The list of rectors commences with Guy de Digeneswell, 1214.

The Abbots of Walden presented to this living till the Dissolution. For the better management of glebe lands and tithes, the possessors would frequently inhabit the parsonage houses; but Abbots and Priors were directed to take care, that at least two monks should be associated in these cases, and that when the revenues of a church would not support two monks, the church should be committed to

[1] From the late J. E. Cussans' "Church Goods in Herts."

seculars. It is from this circumstance that the Monks Walk obtains its name. The tenacity of local tradition is shown by the fact, that although for over 360 years no monk has been there, the name is unchanged.

The registers date from 1538.

All the inscriptions in the churchyard have been copied, as well as two or three others in Herts. This work (without any exception) should be done, as there are many inscriptions that can be deciphered now, that will not be readable in twenty years time.

A tomb in the churchyard is dated 1675, the only earlier instance in Herts is to be seen at Thundridge.

I am much indebted to the Rector for many of the foregoing notes.

H. P. Pollard.

QUEEN HOO HALL.

Queen Hoo, Queno, or Quinow Hall, as it has been variously spelt, is situated in one of the prettiest parts of Herts, on high ground in the parish of Tewin, about three and a half miles north-west of Hertford, surrounded by woods and cornfields, and commanding extensive and charming views to the south.

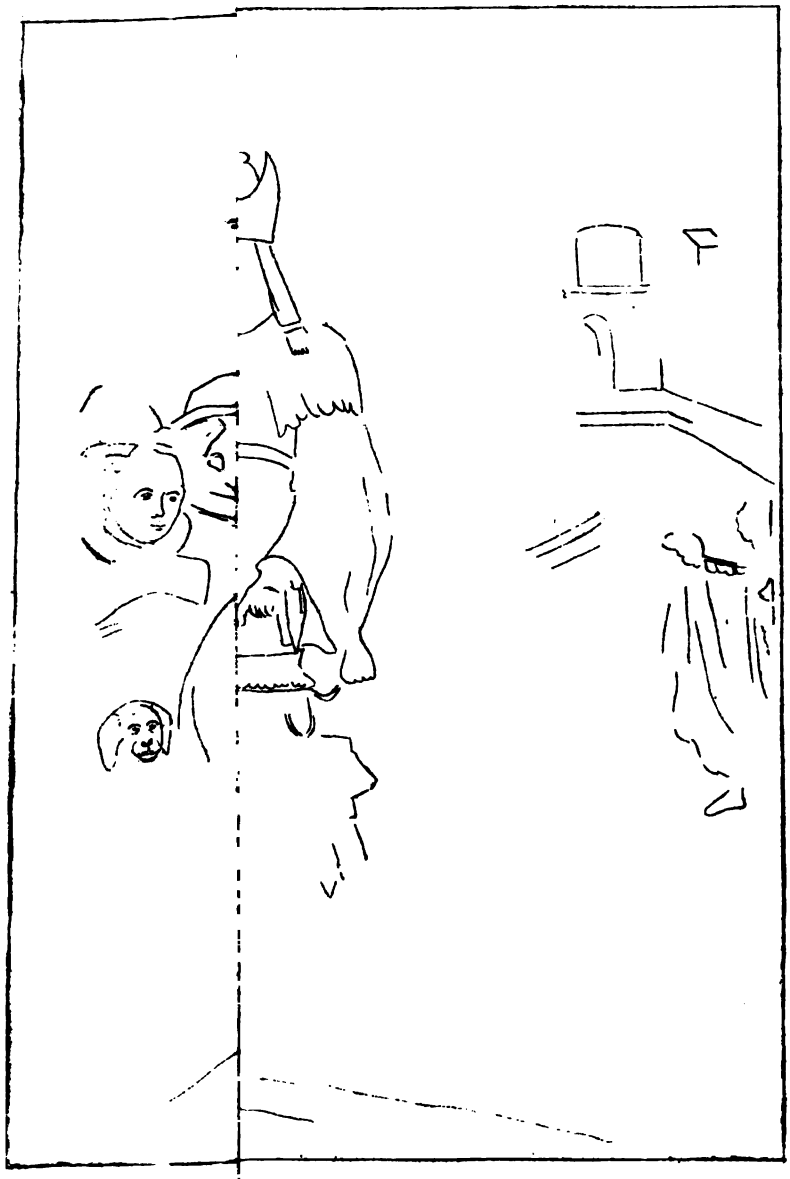
It is a picturesque old building of red brick, with square-headed, stone mullioned and transomed windows, filled with leaded panes of diamond-shaped glass, and its tiled roof and massive walls have assumed that lovely colouring which only time can give.

Of the early history of the house very little is known, and our county historians do not throw much light on the subject. Chauncy and Clutterbuck do not mention it; but Salmon states that "there is an estate in this parish belonging to the Lord Grandison called Quino Hall, which anciently was a manor;" Cussans also devotes a few lines to it, he speaks of curiously twisted chimneys, noble staircases, and carved chestnut panelling.

A book called "Queenhoo Hall" was published in 1808. The unfinished story was found among the papers of Joseph Strutt, author of "Old English Sports and Pastimes." This was completed by Mr. Walter Scott, who previously had written but little prose. Not long after this he commenced his "Waverley" novels, and it is satisfactory to think that his early work on "Queen Hoo Hall" probably directed his attention more to the writing of prose fiction.

One of the first known owners of this estate was Ralph Boteler, who died in 1644, and was buried under the east window of Tewin church. He was a member of the ancient and influential family of Boteler, or Butler, of Watton Woodhall. The estate passed then to the Grandisons (some of whom are buried in Bramfield church), and from them to the Villiers Stuart family, then to the Smiths, of Watton Woodhall; the present owner being our president, Mr. Abel H. Smith, M.P.

In Tewin Church there is a brass to "Thomas Pygott, Gent., whose ancestors have remayned dwellinge in this towne this 300 yeares and upwards, he died the 11th of January, 1610, and in



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the 70th. yeare of his age," and the author of the "Memorial Brasses in Hertfordshire Churches" states that the Pygotts probably resided at Queen Hoo Hall.

In 1782 a former occupier of this house (Benjamin Whittenbury) was instrumental in shooting a notorious robber, one Walter Clibborn, and in the arresting of his son, Joseph Clibborn. A post by the side of the Datchworth road, not far distant, marks the spot of Walter Clibborn's burial.

Some particulars of this event, and also of Queen Hoo Hall and its former owners, will be found in Vol. II, Part 1, of the *Transactions*.

The house is said to have been visited by Queen Elizabeth, and to have been used by her as a hunting-box; on what authority I have, up to the present, been unable to trace; but the name of Queen Hoo Hall lends, perhaps, a little colour to this supposition.

Professor Skeat tells us in his "Place-Names of Hertfordshire" that the word 'Hoo' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *hoh*, a heel, or projecting edge of land, a spur, or projecting slope of a hill. There are several places similarly named, such as Luton Hoo, Kimpton Hoo, and we also have the same termination in Bengeo, Cashio. Speaking of Queen Hoo Hall, he says that a "remarkable spelling *Qwenhawe* occurs in the Index to Charters (1313) . . . it is probable that *queen* here represents A.S. *cwenan*, gen. of *cwene*, 'a woman, a quean,' rather than A.S. *cwēne*, gen. of *cwēn*, 'a queen.' The two words were originally distinct, though from the same root."

Several guide-book writers state that Queen Hoo Hall is an Elizabethan building, but we shall not be far wrong if we give some date about the year 1500, or a little later, as the period of its erection. There is no trace of what Ruskin called the "pestilent renaissance" apparent here.

Several writers also have informed us that the house is only a portion of the original edifice; this is not improbable. Both the east and west ends of the building show a diamond-patterned ornament in the brickwork, made by the use of darker burnt bricks. This rather indicates that the wings did not extend from the ends of the building, as, supposing that they had fallen into decay and had been pulled down, it is unlikely that in rebuilding, this ornamental brickwork would have been used.

At the back of the house a blocked-up doorway occurs on the first floor, and here a small window has been inserted. It is possible that an external flight of steps (a feature not at all uncommon in old houses) formerly led to this door, but it is more

probable that the door led into another room in a part of the house, which has at some earlier period been demolished.

The chimneys can be seen well from the north side. The old builders were not ashamed of their chimneys, and were often lavish in their use of ornamental work upon them; of this we have good examples at the Rye House and other places in the county. The chimneys in question are apparently not so old as the house; probably the original ones became decayed and were rebuilt in their present diagonal pattern; still, they are good specimens of plain, honest brickwork.

At the west end it will be seen that the window on the first floor has at some period been closed; and that the attic window which until recently was bricked up, and had cross-shaped loop-holes similar to the window at the east end of the house, has been opened and glazed.

At each end of the south front a bay projects. These bays are carried up the whole height of the building, and their triangular-headed gables still retain their original finials of brick, cut in star-shaped facets. The left-hand bay has a doorway, with a depressed Tudor arch, and an oak door which is of no great age.

A brick wall encloses a rectangular space on the south side of the house, now laid out as a garden. This was probably the courtyard. On the south side of this walled enclosure it will be seen that an opening has been bricked up where, formerly, there was an entrance. On the west side of the house is another enclosure, which might have been part of the pleasure-grounds. The old orchard is on the east side of the house.

The principal entrance is by a plain square-headed doorway a little to the right of the centre of the south front. The door is a massive construction of two thicknesses of oak planking, plentifully studded with nails, and opens into a small entrance hall. Old drawings show a wooden porch to this door. There is another old door in the east side of the house.

The kitchen is interesting on account of its large open fireplace, nine feet wide, and nearly enough to roast an ox. Kitchens were an important item in houses of this period. Our forefathers liked good living, and we find in old cookery-books such instructions as "take an ox and seethe him," and so on, and fixed in the ceiling is an iron bracket with a wheel, which was an arrangement in connection with the spit for roasting.

On the other side of the hall is the dining-room, in which a noteworthy feature is the old stone fireplace. It is Tudor with shallow mouldings, and the bases are made high. It is 5 feet in width and

4 ft. 4 in. in height. Our ancestors liked a cheerful blaze, and constructed their fireplaces accordingly. Dividing this room from the next are some massive oak beams in the partition. This smaller room contains a stone fireplace of similar character to the one we have just described and a comfortable window seat. There is also an entrance to this room from the garden outside.

At the end of the hall is an old oak door, with a quaint wooden latch.

The door to the left leads to what was formerly, perhaps, the pantry. Here is the commencement of a curious arrangement occupying the well of the staircase, continued to the top of the house. Four oak posts form a square shaft, the interstices are plastered, and at various distances are small doors, opening into cupboards.

The staircase is of oak and quite plain.

Further up the stairs a door to the right opens into a curious space under the tiles, which is above the kitchen. It is also of considerable depth in one place, and there is a legend that there was a secret passage leading from here to Tewin House. A large amount of rubbish was removed during the recent repairs, but no trace of any such passage was found. The rustic mind dwells fondly on secret passages, and similar tales are told of nearly every old house in the county.

On the first floor a door to the left leads into another large room. It has a stone fireplace, and the oak beams and uprights of the partition dividing this from the next room show the solid way in which the old builders builded. They were not chary in the use of materials, and their buildings will outlast many modern ones.

In one of the rooms is an interesting piece of ornamentation on the beams on the south and west sides, consisting of flower-heads, possibly intended to represent lilies or tulips, placed about 6 inches apart and painted in a conventional manner. These were discovered beneath the whitewash.

The next room is worth attention, for above the fireplace is a mural painting of great interest. It is about 6 feet wide and 3 ft. 6 in. deep, but portions only of it are now discernible. Some of the figures are merely outlined, and the picture appears as if it had never been finished. Possibly more than one subject is represented, and all the painting may not have been done at the same time. It has been conjectured to represent a scene of an Elizabethan morality play, but it is difficult to speak with any certainty owing to its condition.

Commencing at the right hand we notice the hand and foot of

a figure, and a building with circular windows. Next is a large figure, fairly distinct, with flowing beard, possibly representing Aaron. He holds in his right hand the chains of a censer, from which clouds of incense arise. His left hand hangs loosely in front. He is wearing a white tunic reaching to the feet, having long sleeves; over this is another garment reaching to the knees, with short sleeves, which is probably an ephod. A girdle is tied round his waist, and the end hangs down in front. On his head is a mitre. One long string is shown depending from it and the tassel of the opposite one.

The next figure is not distinct and the colouring is very dark, but its arms are uplifted.

Proceeding, we have the figure of a man, apparently nude, with the exception of a cloth round the loins. His left hand rests on his hip, his right hand holds a large instrument resembling a 'cello.

The next figure is of a man with flowing hair and beard, who appears to wear a crown; he is arrayed in a long velvet robe with a very deep cape edged with a broad band of a different colour; he also is wearing a large ornamental lace collar; his arms are folded, and he is kneeling. The tassels of his girdle are visible, and apparently support a long light-coloured train which stretches out behind him.

Just behind him to the left is the head of a bearded man. Beyond are five women. The first two are seen in profile. The second and third are wearing ruffs of the Elizabethan period, and have Mary Stuart headdresses. The others are wearing collars and high-crowned beavers.

The head of a dog, apparently of the bloodhound type, is visible close to the last figure.

Three small heads will be noticed in the upper portion on the left-hand side.

All the figures, etc., are of the same dark colour, and the whole painting is surrounded by a blue border about 1½ inches wide.

A flight of stairs leads to the attic, which is divided into three small rooms, probably originally one long room, where some of the servants slept. In the middle room is seen the massive timbering of the roof. The westernmost room has a stout oak door, studded with nails. On the inside are strong wrought-iron hinges, bolts, and lock. The window at the west end is bricked up, and has cross-shaped loopholes. In the south-west angle of the room is a fireplace of brick, but there is no chimney to it. On the south side a door leads to a small chamber.

As far as can be ascertained, no print or engraving of the house exists. The earliest known view of it is in the Pridmore Collection belonging to Baron Dimsdale.

There are three drawings of it in a book of water-colour sketches recently acquired by the St. Albans Museum; one is a neatly finished sepia drawing showing the front of the house; the other two show other portions, and are dated 1828. There is also a water-colour sketch probably executed in the first half of the last century. Both this and the St. Albans drawings represent the house much the same as at the present day, except that a wooden porch is shown to the principal entrance.

The house is a charming small country place and is doubtless the work of local craftsmen, who built, not as cheaply, but as well as possible; and it only remains to thank Canon and Mrs. Beeching for allowing the Society every facility for its examination.

E. E. Squires.

NOTES ON THE ROYAL PALACE OF THEOBALDS.

THIS beautiful palace was built by Sir William Cecil (the great Lord Burleigh) as a country residence for himself, and was completed in September, 1571, and here he repeatedly entertained Queen Elizabeth in the most sumptuous manner. Sir William's youngest son, Sir Robert Cecil, gave King James a noble reception at Theobalds in May, 1603, and in 1606 a second entertainment to his sovereign and to Christian IV, King of Denmark, who stayed with him four days. King James became so delighted with Theobalds that, in 1607, he arranged to exchange it for Hatfield House, and James lived at Theobalds till his death, which took place at the palace on March 27th, 1625.

The King of Denmark paid a second visit to Theobalds in 1614, and was entertained there by James I for fifteen days. Theobalds continued as a royal residence till the commencement of the Civil War, and to this place Charles retired when he found himself no longer safe at Westminster.

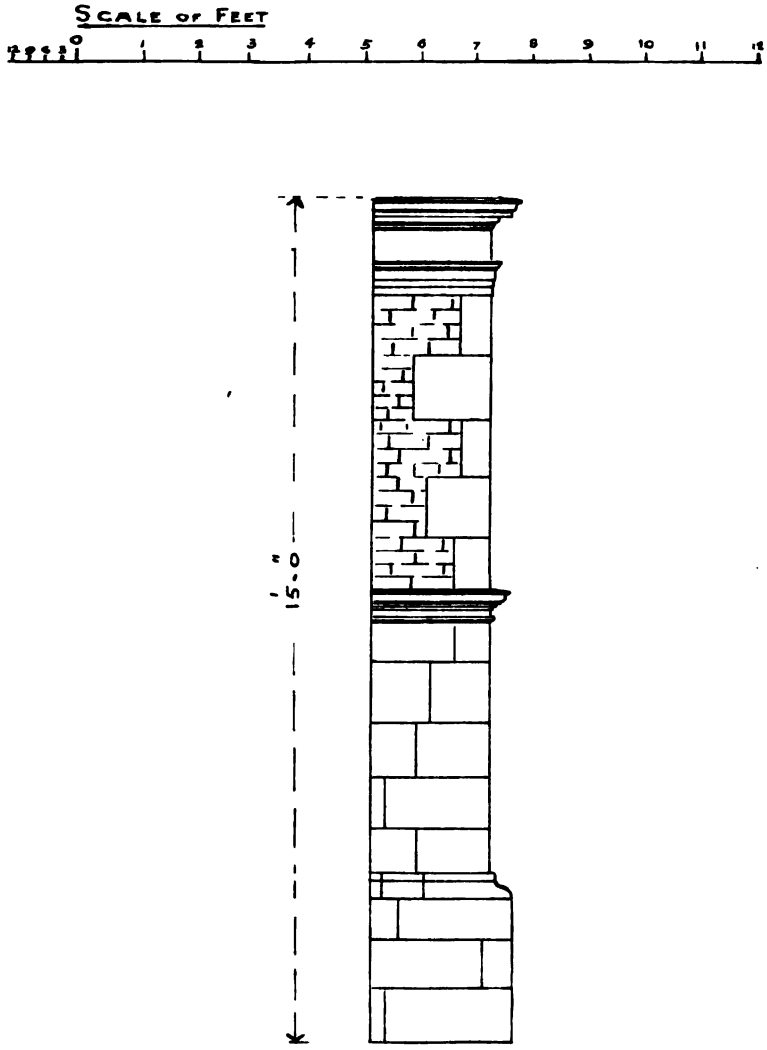
The palace was demolished in 1650 by order of Parliament during the Commonwealth, so that very little remains except the park, and a few of the walls of the royal gardens and outhouses.

The Old Palace House, and three other large houses have been erected on the site of these gardens and terraces, and the noble cedars, poplars, oaks, chestnuts, beeches, firs, and evergreens attest to the former splendour of the place.

At Old Palace House the garden walks still remain as formerly, and in a portion of the old walls which enclose the kitchen garden are a number of small niches, but their use has never been satisfactorily explained. It is also in this garden that the only portion of the original external wall of the palace itself is still standing, as shown in the drawing accompanying these notes. The old oak banqueting-table, as illustrated, is also at Old Palace House, and there is little doubt but that it dates from the time of the Palace, and has remained ever since as the property of succeeding tenants.

Tradition says that in the garden of Old Palace House Dr. Watts wrote "The little busy Bee" and other poems.

F. W. LANE.

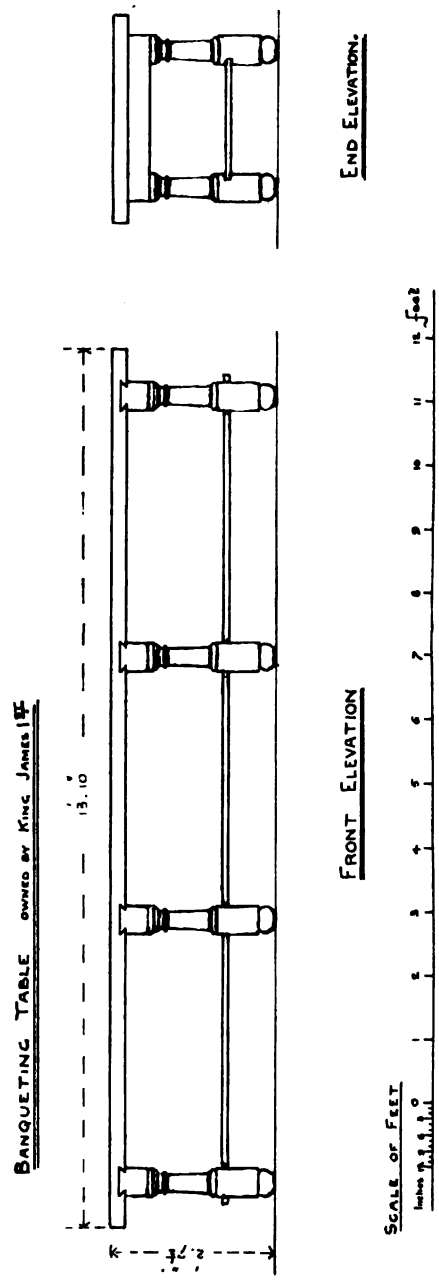


A PIECE OF THE ORIGINAL WALL OF

THE ROYAL PALACE OF THEOBALDS

NOW STANDING AT

OLD PALACE HOUSE. THEOBALDS. WALTHAM CROSS.


BANQUETING TABLE OWNED BY KING JAMES I
13.10
2.7
END ELEVATION.
FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE OF FEET
Inches 12 8 4 0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Feet

SIR EDWARD BENSTED, Knight.

The will of this old Hertfordshire worthy of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was written by himself, according to the statement "wruten with the prop hande of me," and is an interesting document made in 1517.

The name is spelt in various ways, such as Bensted, Benstede, and Benestede. Sir Edward Bensted was an inhabitant of Hertingfordbury, and patron of the rectory in 1504. He may have resided at Woolmers, as that place is in the parish of Hertingfordbury, and is mentioned in the will as a tenement and farm.

According to Cussans' History, in a patent of King Henry VIII, dated 1514, "Sir Edward Benstede of Hertefordingberie" is described as Treasurer of War, and late Treasurer to Mary, Queen of the French. No information about him or his family, or his connection with the manor or village of Hertingfordbury, can be found in the other county histories.

The earliest mention of the Bensted family in this county is found under the heading of Bennington in Chauncy's "Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire," which says "Alexander de Balioll conveyed the Manor of Bennington to John de Bensted, Anno 13, Edward I" (1284). In his thirty-third year "that king confirmed by charter the grant thereof, with the Court Leet, and several other privileges: a Market every week to be held on the Wednesday at Bennington, and a fair yearly on the eve-day, and morrow after the festivals of the Apostles Peter and Paul. He was constituted one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster in the third year of Edward II. He was employed in Scotland upon the King's service, and was summoned to Parliament among the Barons of the Realm. He was also one of the Commissioners to treat of peace, Anno 11, Edward II, betwixt the King and Robert de Bruce of Scotland; and sent in the king's twelfth year, with the Bishop of Hereford and other eminent persons, unto the Court of Rome, to solicit His Holiness for the canonization of Thomas de Cantilupe, sometime Bishop of Hereford."

Clutterbuck in his County History gives a pedigree commencing with John de Benstede, who married Beatrix de Gravele, and died in 1323, and extending to William Benstede, who died in 1486.

They held the manor of Bennington during these years, and were patrons of the living of that place. In 1486 the manor was sold to Sir William Say, who was buried in Broxbourne Church.

Clutterbuck also gives a full-page engraving of one of the altar-tombs with the two stone effigies. This tomb was probably erected to the memory of John de Bensted, who is represented by one of the stone figures, and who died in 1432.

The arms of the Bensted family were, Gules, three Bars-gemelles or, and these arms are found on two tombs with effigies, and in several places in Bennington Church, and in the heads of a triple window over the sedilia there.

John de Benstede was rector of Little Berkhampstead from 1297 to 1310.

Petronilla Benstede was a benefactress to the Monastery of St. Albans; she was the patroness of the Rectory of Radwell in 1333, and her husband, John de Benstede, patron in 1316.

Edward de Benstede was Member of Parliament for Herts in 1384 and 1397, and Sheriff of the County in 1379 and 1399.

On 22nd September, 1485, King Henry VIII appointed William Benestede constable of Hertford Castle, and on the same day he granted to Edward Benestede the custody of the parks of Hertford and Hertingfordbury.

Henry Benstede was Prior of the Priory of Hertford from 1486 to 1496.

Edward Benstede was one of the trustees under the will of Stephen Hellard, rector of Stevenage, who is commemorated by a memorial brass in the parish church of that town.

Andrew Benstede was vicar of Herne, Kent, from 1511 to 1531, and a Latin inscription in that church denotes his burial-place.

In the marriage register of All Saints Church, Maidstone, are the following entries:—

> " 1 June, 1553, John bensted and Agnes bromfylde."
> " 28 Jan., 1553, John Edward and Agnes bensted."

The family of Ferrers mentioned in the will is also an ancient one, and was of considerable note in the county. They are found in connection with the parish church of Bayford, in which are monuments to their memory. They are descended from Robert de Ferrers, the first Earl of Derby, created 1137, and George Ferrers, of Merkyate, was a son of Thomas Ferrers of St. Albans, and was buried at Flamstead, Herts, in 1578. The manor of Bayford came to Sir John Ferrers, knight, who died 1640. The last of the family was Katherine, who became the wife of Viscount Fanshawe,

of Ware Park, and died in 1660, and was buried at Ware, in the family vault, at St. Mary's Church.

Ralph Ferrers was appointed master of St. Julian's Hospital, St. Albans, in 1475.

George Ferrers was M.P. for the borough of St. Albans in the thirteenth Parliament of Queen Elizabeth.

Sir Edmund Bensted's wife's christian name was Joyes or Joyce, but we do not find her maiden name, and from the will he seems to have had a brother John, who was Abbot of Whitby in Yorkshire, being elected in 1505, and died in 1514. (The prefix 'Damp' is the English equivalent of the word *dominus*.) He had a sister, Katherine, who was married to her cousin, John Ferrers, and a cousin, Alice Ferrers; and as he had no children surviving, all his property was bequeathed to various persons after the death of his wife, including another cousin, Dorothy Loyde.

The testator by his will gives particular instructions to his executors as to his place of burial, and other matters. His children appear to have all predeceased him, as the only reference to them is that of their burial-place, viz., before the image of our Lady of Acon, which seems to have been placed in the chancel of Hertingfordbury Church. This is one of the names given to the Virgin Mary, and is the mediæval name of Acre, one of the chief towns of Palestine. In Lombard Street, London, is the church of St. Nicholas Acons united with St. Edmund the King and Martyr. Canon Benham writing on this subject, says, "Probably our Lady of Acon was our Lady of Acre. The Crusaders had a special shrine to the Virgin Mary at Accho or St. Jean d'Acre, and brought back with them the memory of their veneration."

Stow's Survey of London mentions "the Hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, since called the Mercer's Chapel, near Cheape Street [Cheapside]."

On making his will, the testator seems to have been reminded by his conscience that he had not always paid his legal dues to the parson, so he compounded them by a bequest of 13*s*. 4*d*. We should like to know if his directions to his executors to place a window with stained glass on the south side of the church were carried out; if so, the figures of St. Alban and St. Amphibalus have long since disappeared. The gift of a silver-gilt chalice to the church of St. Peter's, St. Albans, was probably very acceptable, but no record of it is obtainable at the present time. In a list of goods remaining in that church in 1553 there appears:—

"Itm. a Challise pcell guilt of silver poz xiij oz.
Itm. another Challise of silver pcell guilt xij oz."

One of these may have been the silver-gilt chalice named in the will, and if so it had only been in use about thirty-four years. Mention is made of Damp John Kenelworth, 'selerer' of St. Albans Monastery, but this name does not appear in the list of cellarers or sub-cellarers of the Abbey in the "Registers of the city and diocese of St. Albans," no names being given between 1482 and 1531.

According to Nuttall's Dictionary the word 'thorpe' in the will means a homestead, or the locality of a hamlet (A.S.), so that the clause would refer to premises situate in the village of Hertingfordbury.

The farm and manor called 'halles' was probably what is now known as Hall's Place in St. Peter's parish, St. Albans, and at that time was occupied by members of the family of Westby, many of whom are buried in St. Peter's Church. Harpsfield Hall is about half-way between Hatfield and St. Albans, and the manor was held by John de Benstede, who, dying in 1323, left it to his wife Petronilla, and (according to Cussans) it afterwards descended to Margaret, daughter of William Benstede, who married Sir John Brockett, of Brocket Hall, who died in 1558, but this does not seem to agree with the clause in the will. Sir John Brocket and his wife Margaret are buried in the church at Wheathampstead, where they have an altar-tomb of alabaster, upon which are the arms of both families.

The executors appear to have carried out the testator's injunctions respecting his burial, and provided a stone with the family "arms and escutcheons" to denote his last resting-place. In the collection of the Society of Antiquaries is an old rubbing, which shows that there were originally four brass shields on a stone slab in Hertingfordbury Church containing:—

1. At the upper dexter, three Bars-gemelles for Benstede.

2. At the upper sinister, a shield of arms now in the possession of the Society, having on the obverse, quarterly I and IV, two lions passant. II and III a cross patonce, impaling a saltire engrailed, which again impales a lion rampant. In the Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society, No. xxvii, April, 1901, p. 128, an engraving is given of both sides of this shield, and a note stating that it may be the coat of Dudley quartering Sutton, and impaling Tiptoft and Powys. This shield is a palimpsest, and has been cut from a larger brass containing a group of children *c.* 1460, and portions of about half a dozen boys can be seen upon it.

3. At the lower dexter, quarterly I and IV two lions passant; II and III a cross patonce impaling quarterly I and IV, a saltire engrailed impaling a lion rampant; II and III three Bars-gemelles.

4. At the lower sinister, as No. 3, but the lion takes precedence of the saltire in the first quarter of the impalement.

These shields have been missing from the church for many years.

The worthy old knight seems to have been possessed of a considerable amount of property, the income of which his widow enjoyed for the remainder of her days. He did not forget his dependents, for he gave to the St. Albans cellarer his "grey Scotisshe Nagge" for services in supervising his will, as well as various articles to his servants. Even the "lytill boye" in the kitchen came in for clothes and money, which probably delighted his youthful heart, and made him respect the memory of his old master. Another servant had his "blacke horsse," and another received three sheep and some cash amounting to 3*s.* 4*d.* in silver.

The testator lived only a short time after making his will in 1517, for it was proved in February, 1519, but we have no record of the date of his death, or of that of his wife. We must, however, express a hope that the "lovers and friends" of the old couple "had them in remembrance," according to the expression set forth in this interesting will.

W. F. Andrews.

Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice.

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I SIR EDWARDE BENSTED late of Hertfordingbury w^t^in the countie of Hertford Knyght beying in goode helthe and right mynde our lorde god be thanked make this my present testament and last will in maner and forme as hereafter ensuyth First I bequeth, my soule to almyghty god my Saviour and maker our blessed lady seint mary his moder and to all the holy company of heven And my body to be buried in the Quere within the pisshe Churche of hertfordingbury aforesaide before the Image of oure Ladye of Acon there besyde my childern Also I bequethe to the psone of the Churche for my prevy tythes forgoten behynde wt other my offrynges Duryng the season that I haue contynued in the said parishe xiij^s^. iiij^d^. And to the Wardeins of the said church towardes the repacions of the same pt Also I will that incontentent vpon my dethe myne executours cause to do make a windowe through the wall on the Southsyde of the Church aforesaide And to doo glase the same

with the images of Seint Albone and Seint Amphiabill setting twoo scochins theron w^t^myn Armys an other with my wife Dame Joyce in remembrance of vs bothe with oure childern that ben entred there And that my taper brynnyng before oure Lady of Acon may be kept and maynteined as long as they maye be of power Also I bequeth vnto the parisshe churche of sent petirs wtin the towne of Seint Albones A chales of siluer and gilt to the value of iiij^ll^ sterling there to remayne to the suice of god his blessid mother mary and that holy appostell seint petir to thentent that the soules of my father and of my mother myne & my said wife w^t^ other my kynsfolks that ben entred there may be the better remembred herafter in the prayers of the Holy Church Also I bequethe vnto the monastery of Seint Albones aforesaid to be prayde fore there and to haue a speciall dirige and masse for my soule xvjs viijd And besyde that to the covent of the same for apytannce iijs iiijd Also I bequethe vnto the house and priory of our blessid Lady of herford for to haue a dirige and masse doon for my soule there xxs And to the churche of Alhalowes there xxd Also to the churche of seint Andrewe there xxd Also to the Freres at Ware to haue a trentall of masses doon for my soule there pt Also I bequethe to the churche of Bisshopps hatfeld xxd and to my suant Thomas plomer my blak horsse sadell and bridell my blak chamlett gowne furred w^t^ blacke lambe and bogie and xiijs iiijd in money And he to haue apaire of my best hosen Also I bequethe vnto John Cowper of seint albons xs in money towardes a gowe Also I bequethe to my cosyn Alis Ferrers iiij kyne and tenne shepe a standyng cupp w^t^ a couer of siluer and vj silver spones a fetherbed w^t^ all the imployments and necessaries that belonghithe to a hoole bed after the honest maner Also I bequethe vnto Gilbert adams after the dethe of my wif the tent and the housse that his father nowe dwellith in beyng in the psones holde And I will that my said wif make a surrender thereof to his vse in the tyme of his lyf Also I will that my said wif or myne executours delyuer and paye vnto the priour and convent of the house of blacke monkes of oure blessed lady of Herforde in recompence of such money and goodes as my broder Damp John Bensted founde there at his first comyng which she may well paye of suche goodes at she hathe of his xij^ll^ Also I woll that my said wif or my said executours incontenent vpon my said dethe delyuer and paye vnto the abbot and convent of the monasterij of Seint petir and seint Ilde of Whytbye towardes the reparacon of the churche there x^ll^ sterling Also I woll that my said wif and executors furthwith vpon my dethe delyuer and paye vnto the

priour and convent of the house of Seint Olwyne of Tynmowthe towarde the reparacon there iiij^{li} sterling Also I will that my said wif or my executours aforesaid furthwith vpon my dethe delyuer and truely paye vnto a peauterer of London dwelling bysid seint Antoniys there for a garnysshe of counterfett peauter vessell with a basyn and an ewer of peauter in lyke wise which my brother Damp John Bensted late Abbot of Whytby toke of hymm yeris past xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} And also that my said wif or my said executours furthwithe vpon my dethe delyuer and paye vnto the priour and brethern of the house of seint Jones Jherusalem within the realme of England to pray for the soule of Willm Grene late of Boston marchaunt as money lent unto the said William Throwez otherwise called William Porter xxvj^{s} viij^{d} The residue of all my goodes and catalls not bequethed my will in euery thing fulfilled and my detts truely paid I gyve and grante hooly vnto Joyes my wif which Joyes with Thomas Warton oon of the three clerks of the kyngs Exchequer I doo make and ordeyn myn executours of this my present testament and last will to thentent that for the greate and speciall trust I haue in them they will diligently and truely pforme the same for the weale of my soule and also of theires And I will that the said Thomas Warton have for his labour xxs And I will that in any wise this my last will be stedfast and stande in effecte and full strength And I haue required and assigned maister Damp John kenelworth Selerer of that noble monastery of seint Albones to be overseer and supvisour of this my present testament and last will he to haue for his labour my grey Scottisshe nagge Thise ben the very wytnesse of this my very will John Drap John Forster John Bygge William Founde Edwarde Forster and John Elard w^{t} other made and wruten with the prop hande of me the said Syr Edwarde Bensted the xxvj day of Decembre the yere of our lord god mv^{c} xvij and the ixth yere of the Reigne of our souaine Lord Kyng Henry the Eyght

MORE OVER as tochynge my landes I will in any wise that my said wif Joyse haue enjoye and possesse all and euery such landes and tenements rents and sruices as I haue or euer had within the counties of hartforde hamshire and Norff or in any other place within this realme of England for terme of hir lyf according to suche estates and suretie as I haue lately made and gyven vnto hir in that behalf w^{t} all and euery suche landes and tenements rents and suices as she and I haue lately purchased togeder aswell fre as copy in the lordshipp of hartfording bury and in the parisshe of seint Andrewes of the towne of hertford within the countie of hertford as quietly and peassably as euer I occupied them my self

Further more I well that at all suche seasons after my dethe and as my said wif shalbe disposed to sell and make sale of my maner of Jedboroughe and thappurtennces within the countie of Norfolke that then all such feofees at stond enfeoffed to my vse within the same shall make asure and a sufficient estate in the lawe of the said maner of Ikboroughe wt thappurtennces to my said wif and my said executour to thentent they may make sale of the same So that the money comyng therof may be employed aboute such meritorie deds as I haue gyven in charge to my said wif and executour to doo and fulfill for the weale of my soule and hirs Also I woll that at suche season herafter as my said wife shalbe disposed to make sale of the ferme called FitzJohns and the appurtennces with all such other landes and tenements rentis and sruices as I and she lately haue bought and purchased to geder wtin the lord shipp of hartfordingbury and in the pishe of seint Andrewes within the countie of hertford aforesaid that they such my feoffes as of speciall trust stonde and bene enfeoffed in the landes aforesaid shall make vnto my said wif Joyse with myne other executour a suer and sufficient estate in the lawe of all and euery of the said lands and tents rents and sruices lying wtin the Lordshipp of Hertfordingbury and pisshe of hertforde called seint Andrewes aforesaid to thentent that wt the money comyng of the same they may dispose according to my mynde shewed lately to my said wif and then for the weale of my soule and hers Excepte my tenement and ferme wt thappurtennes called Wolmers lying within the said Lordshipp of Harfordingbury which I woll that after the disceace of my said wif shall discende to my cosen Ales Ferrers And that my said feoffees make asure & a sufficient estate in the lawe of the same to her vse and begoff according to this my last will Also I beqthe vnto my said Cosen Alis after the dethe of my said wif my tenement with the appurtennces lying in the Thorpe of hartfordingbury in the which Fraunces the miller nowe dwellith in She to haue the same with the premisses to her and to hir heires for euer And I woll that my said wif do make in hir lyves tymes a surrender of the said tenement wt thappurtennce accordyng to this my graunt and last will Also I woll that at all suche season after my dethe as my said wif Joyce shall desire my feoffees suche as ben feoffed in my maner of Bested otherwise bolongars within the countie of hamshire to my vse and behoff shall furthwith make asure and a sufficient estate in the lawe of the same maner with thappurtennces to my said wife Joys and myn other executours thentent they may dispose and distribute the money that they shall make of the said landes for the weale of

my soule the soules of Willm Bensted late of Benyngton and her soule And to paye suche parte of detts as he aught at the house of his dethe accordyng to her discrecion and conscience which hathe priked my conscience right fore And so I doute not but it dothe hers Also I will in any wise that my ferme and maner called halles wt thappurtenances in the parisshes of Saint Peters and Sandryge And the Soken of parke besyde the towne of Seint Albones after the decease of my said wif Joyse shall decende and goo to my cosen Alis Ferrers aforesaid and to her heires for euer And that suche my feoffes as stonde enfeoffed in the same make hir a sure and a sufficient astate in the lawe accordyng to this my mynde withoute coloure or delaye And if my said cosyn alis dye withoute issue of hir bodye lawfully begoten that then the said ferme and maner of halles with the appurtennces shall remayne to her oldest brother and my cosyn John Ferrers and to his heires fore ever and so from heire to heire aslong as any of that blode endurithe and ovir that I will that after the dethe of my said wif Joyse my maner of harpiffeldhall lying in the parisshe of seint Petirs bdesid the towne of Seint Albones the maner of lyghe and kynepton with theire appurtennes And all such landes and tents rents and suices as I hade wtin the towne and lordshipp of Benyngton wtin the countie of Herford aforesaid which descended to me by right of enheritance shall goo and retorne to my said cosyn John Ferrers as sonne and next heire vnto my suster Kateryn Ferrers late of the towne of Seint Albones aforesaid whose soule Jhu pdone To haue enjoye and hold the same to hym and to his heires for evir of the chief lordes of the fee by the rent due and accustumed And if theire be any poynte or clause in this my last will that is not made formeable after the true course of the lawe I woll then that myne Executours shall correcte the same and cause it to be made in goode forme not changyng the mater in any condicion but that it may stonde in effecte in euery poynte as I haue here entended and the same for the more suertie I haue wryten the premisses with myne owne hande Also I woll that after the deceas of my said wif Joys my suint Thomas Plomer haue and enjoye my tenement sett in the Thropp of hertfordingbury in the which William Founde now dwellithe And before hym John Sherr he to haue the same to hym and to his heires for ever And that my said feoffees make hym a sure and sufficient astate in the lawe of the said tenemet accordyng to this my mynde Also I bequethe vnto the churche of our blessid Ladye of hartfordingbury my gown of blacke lukes welvet furred wt Jenetts for to make a goodly Coope an Awbe wt the apparell therunto

belongyng and a Chesible for to saye masse in with the value of the said gowne And if it will not extende thereunto then I woll that my said Executours shall do paye and pforme the rest of the same And I bequethe vnto the pisshe churche of seint Petir wtin the Towne of seint Albones my cote of Cremysyne velvett browdered with a clothe of gold And in lyke wise my jaked of black veluet gardyd wt clothe of gold to make a testamet there in the honour of god and sent pitir in remembrance that my father and mother withe other my kynsfolke bene entred and buried there Also I woll that after the dethe of my said wif Joys my said cosyn alis Ferrers haue my cupp wt the cover siluer and gilt called the rosse cupp and twoo of my pounced gobletts of siluer Also I will that my cosyn Dorathe Loyde haue after the dethe of my said wif oon of my chased peces of siluer Also I woll that my sunt Thomas Barber haue my cote of tawny Veluet Also I bequeth to euery godd sonne that I haue vj^{s} viij^{d} Also I woll that a stone be provided and ordeyned incontenent vpon my dethe for me and my said wif Joys to be layde vpon my grave wt all hast & diligence of the value of v or vj pounde sterling havyng the armes and scochyns of vs bothe to thentent that our lovers and frends my haue remembrance of vs herafter Also I will that William Kelam haue iij^{s} iiij^{d} in money an old doblet of myn and an old paire of hosen Also I woll that my ladde David haue iij^{s} iiij^{d} and an other old doblet withe a paire of hosen Also I bequethe to the lytill boye of the kechyn xx^{d} in money for a shirte and my tawny velvet doblet whose name is called pope Also I bequeth my sunt William Burton my blacke horsse goyng in the parke and iij^{s} iiij^{d} in money Also I bequethe to thouse of obsunts in Grenewicke and Richmount vj^{s} viij^{d} Morouer I will that my said wif and my said executour fynde an honest prest to syng at harfordingbur for my soule William Benstead late of Benyngton and hers by the space of vij yeris if it be possible that they may make such money of such my landes and goodes as they shall sell to the pformyng of this my mynde and last Will Also I will that Will Coke haue iij ewe cheepe and iij^{s} iiij^{d} in Siluer

Proved 13th February 1519

ANNUAL REPORT,

1903.

Membership of the Society.—The Council, in presenting to the members the fifth Annual Report and Balance Sheet, are again able to report an increase in the membership, the total at the end of the year being 161, as against 146 at the close of 1902. During the year six members have resigned from various causes, but this loss has been more than compensated for by the election of twenty-one new members.

The Council.—In accordance with Rule 7 the following five members of the Council, Messrs. A. W. Nash, George Price, J. R. Pulham, J. Allen Tregelles, and Howard L. Warner, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election. The annual meeting will be asked to re-elect these gentlemen, and also to re-elect the Editor, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The Balance Sheet.—It will be seen from the Balance Sheet that the Society has a debit balance of about £58, but this compares very favourably with the financial position a year ago. It was then anticipated that a period of three years would be required in which to clear off the outstanding accounts, but there is every reason to believe that this will be effected by the end of 1904.

The Council feel justified in pointing out that the stock of "Transactions" is valued at the price charged to members at over £100, and although the realization of these is slow, as the years pass and the membership increases the demand for the early issues will become greater.

Annual Meeting and Excursions.—During the year the Society has held its fifth annual meeting and three Summer excursions. The former was held at St. Mary's Hall, Cheshunt, and was well attended. In the absence of the President, Mr. J. Webster Kirkham occupied the

chair and gave the opening address. The Rev. B. Hale Wortham gave a paper on "Prehistoric Archæology: Flint Implements, illustrated with local examples." Mr. C. W. Cook described in detail the "Cheshunt Inclosure Award," and Mr. J. French gave some account of the "Neglected Antiquities of Cheshunt." Mr. R. T. Andrews read a few notes on "Excavations on the site of Anstey Castle"; and the Hon. Secretary narrated the "Legend of Cave Gate (Anstey)." The Hon. Secretary exhibited, by means of the lantern (kindly lent and operated by Mr. W. Spearman), views of all the places visited by the Society during the previous year, and briefly described them. The Society's thanks are due to the Local Committee, through whose efforts the success of the meeting was largely due. A good collection of local antiquities, views, paintings, etc., were exhibited, and thanks are specially due to Messrs. Heathcote, Cook, Lee, Trounce, Bartlett, Bigg, Renshawe, Paul, Rochford, the Rev. J. H. Stamp, Canon Fox Lambert, the Overseers of Cheshunt, and many others for the loan of these.

Thirteenth Excursion.

The first excursion of the year was made on Thursday, June 4th, to the Widford and Hadham district.

Eastwick Church.—The party first assembled at the church of St. Botolph, where the Rector, the Rev. G. C. A. Rowley, M.A., read a paper (*vide* p. 122), also some notes which had been left by the Rev. J. R. Pursell, a former Rector.

Widford Church.—The next stopping-place was the church of St. John the Baptist, Widford; a paper on this building was read by the Hon. Secretary (*vide* p. 124). The Rev. J. Traviss Lockwood afterwards described the bells, and invited the members to view the extensive and beautiful grounds of the Rectory. By the hospitable invitation of Mr. and Mrs. G. Mather Horsey, the members partook of a most liberal lunch, which was served on the lawn under the shade of some fine trees. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Horsey was proposed by Mr. J. Webster Kirkham and seconded by the Rev. H. A. Lipscomb; some of the party then remained in the grounds whilst others proceeded to the neighbouring tumuli.

Barrow Farm.—A paper on the two tumuli, written by Mr. E. E. Squires (*vide* p. 130), was read by the Hon. Secretary. The whole party then drove to Great Hadham.

Great Hadham Church.—The Rector, the Rev. R. S. Gregory, M.A., read a paper on this edifice (*vide* p. 135), and expressed his indebtedness to Miss Wigram for information. Mr. F. H. Norman also made some remarks on the building.

Hadham Palace.—This building, formerly a palace of the Bishops of London, was described by Mrs. Wetherall in a short paper (*vide* p. 140).

Moor Place.—By the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Norman the large gathering of members and friends of the Society partook of tea on the lawn, after which Mr. H. L. Warner proposed a vote of thanks

to Mr. and Mrs. Norman for their kindness, and Mr. Norman read a paper (*vide* p. 143) on the mansion.

This concluded the programme of a very enjoyable day.

Fourteenth Excursion.

Members and friends of the East Herts Archæological Society made their fourteenth excursion on Wednesday, July 15th. The Hertford party proceeded to Buntingford by train and drove from that place.

Barkway.—The Bishop Stortford members joined the party here. The Vicar, the Rev. F. L. Fisher, M.A., having described some of the memorials, Mr. H. P. Pollard read a paper on the church (*vide* p. 151).

The Manor House.—By the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sworder the Society viewed the Manor House, the recent restoration of which was described by the architect, Mr. W. J. Parker. A picnic lunch was partaken of on the lawn, after which the Rev. J. Frome-Wilkinson read a paper on the connection of this house, formerly the Rectory, with the Abbey of St. John, Colchester. The members then visited "The Chestnuts" at the invitation of Mr. J. Balding, where some fine woodwork from the church is preserved. After a short drive the party arrived at Newsells.

Newsells.—The interior of the mansion having been inspected by the invitation of Mr. F. W. Woodhouse, the Hermitage in the grounds, supposed to date from the twelfth century, was visited. Rejoining the carriages the party drove to Barley.

The Guildhall.—The party were then conducted to the Guildhall and Free School (1495–1503); the Playstow, ancient playing-fields dating from before the Conquest; and to the village Cage. The members and friends of the Society were most hospitably entertained at tea by Mrs. Frome-Wilkinson and the ladies of Barley, after which the more energetic members of the party visited Minchin Bury with its huge tithe barn, an old house at Shaftenhoe End, with the following more curious than elegant inscription :—

"So God may still me bless
I care the less;
Let Envy say her worst
And, after, burst";

and Cumberden Bottom, a natural fosse.

St. Margaret, Barley.—The Rector, the Rev. J. Frome-Wilkinson, M.A. (under whose guidance the members had been since arriving at Newsells), described the church. He thought the most ancient part was the lower part of the tower, which might have been Anglo-Danish; there were Roman bonding bricks in the work outside and inside. The south aisle he put as thirteenth century, if not later. The tower arch is said to be pre-Norman. There is a very early window in the south wall of the tower which may also be Anglo-Danish. The pulpit (1626) is said to

be the third oldest wooden pulpit in England, and is part of an old 'three-decker.' There are some small remains of fourteenth and fifteenth century stained glass. The three remaining brasses are dated 1546, 1621, and 1630.

The party left Barley about 7 o'clock, thus terminating one of the longest and most enjoyable excursions the Society has had.

Fifteenth Excursion.

A party of some fifty members and friends started for the fifteenth excursion in the Hertingfordbury and Digswell district on Thursday, August 27th.

Hertingfordbury Church. — After driving through Hertingfordbury Park a paper on the church was read by Mr. W. F. Andrews (*vide* p. 157). By permission of Lord Cowper the party drove through Panshanger, and after an inspection of the Panshanger oak, the journey to Tewin was resumed.

Tewin Church.—Mr. A. W. B. Higgens read a paper on the church which had been written by the Rector, the Rev. Prof. Nairne (*vide* p. 165). The members then proceeded to the site of Tewin House, a short distance north-east of the church. After a picnic lunch the Hon. Secretary read a paper on Tewin House and Lady Cathcart. According to Chauncy, a house was built on the site in 1635 by Dr. John Montfort; at his death it passed to his son-in-law, who disposed of it to the Botelers, and after several changes of ownership it was purchased by Col. Sabine in 1715; it would appear that he found the house too small, and in the following year rebuilt it in the solid Georgian style. In October, 1807, this building, built of brick and stone with a flat roof, with twenty-seven windows in front, twenty-seven at the back, and nine on each side, was pulled down. The writer then gave particulars of the life of Lady Cathcart and her matrimonial experiences.

Digswell.—After driving, by permission of Mr. Beit, through Tewin Water Park, Digswell Church was reached, a paper being read by Mr. H. P. Pollard (*vide* p. 173). After leaving the church the visitors viewed the Monks' Walk and the grounds of Digswell House.

Queen Hoo Hall.—On the return journey the party inspected Queen Hoo Hall, where they were entertained at tea by Mrs. Beeching. Afterwards the Hon. Secretary read a paper (*vide* p. 178), written by Mr. E. E. Squires, on the architectural features of the house. On the proposition of Mr. Cozens-Smith, seconded by Mr. Webster Kirkham, a vote of thanks was passed in acknowledgment of the kindness and courtesy of Canon and Mrs. Beeching, and this ended the day's proceedings.

Layston Church.—A brief visit paid on the occasion of the Fourteenth Excursion revealed a striking change in the appearance of this fine old church. The porch, nave, walls, and roof had been carefully repaired, the windows renewed, the interior cleaned and made fit for worship. The Council feel that all members of the Society

will join with them in an expression of gratitude to the anonymous renovator of this fabric.

Lost Hertfordshire Brasses.—In May last the Council's attention was called to the fact that certain Memorial Brasses and portions of Brasses belonging to the churches at Braughing, Eastwick, and Sawbridgeworth were to be found in the Museum at Saffron Walden. The Council thereupon approached the Clergy of these churches, suggesting, that as the proper custodians of the monuments, they should apply to the Museum authorities for their restitution; but up to the present they are unaware what steps have been taken to this end.

Rubbings of the Brasses in question are in the possession of the Hon. Secretary, and may be inspected by any member interested.

Framed Notices of the Society.—In these the aims and objects of the Society are set forth on a card (12 in. by 9 in.) printed in red and black, and framed in oak. The Council would be glad if members could assist in introducing these into Libraries, Reading Rooms, and Institutes in East Herts. Application for copies should be made to the Hon. Secretary.

Publications.—The following Transactions have been issued:—Vol. I, 1899–1901: Part I, 2*s.* 6*d.*; II, 3*s.* 6*d.*; III, 5*s.* The Index to Vol. I, 1*s.* Cases for binding, 1*s.* 6*d.* to members. Price of completed volume bound, 15*s.* Vol. II, Part I, 1902, 3*s.* 6*d.* The following local works are also offered to members at the prices affixed, but as in some cases but few copies remain, early application is desirable:—

"Norden's Description of Hertfordshire, 1598." With life, portrait, and bibliography of Norden. Map, title, and Arms in facsimile. Small paper, 7*s.* 6*d.*; large paper, 15*s.*

"Handbook to Hertfordshire Memorial Brasses." Small paper, 5*s.*; large paper, 10*s.*

"Hall's Place-Names in Hertfordshire." Interleaved. 3*s.*

"A Hertfordshire St. George, or the story of Piers Shonks and the Pelham Dragon." 1*s.*

"The Eleanor Cross at Waltham," 1791. Basire's fine engraving, size 18¾ in. by 11½ in. A two page quarto leaflet describing the Cross in detail is supplied with this. 5*s.*

"A Catalogue of Hertfordshire Maps," in three parts. Parts I and II now ready. 1*s.* 6*d.* each.

The Place-Names of Hertfordshire, by the Rev. Professor Skeat.—The above work, being the fifth published under the auspices of the Society, will be ready for issue in April. The edition will be a limited one of 200 copies, post 8vo, at 3*s.* 6*d.* nett (by post 3*s.* 8*d.*), and 100 copies, interleaved for notes, at 4*s.* 6*d.* nett (by post 4*s.* 9*d.*).

The work is one that is absolutely indispensable to the student of Hertfordshire history, and it is hoped that members will purchase copies, and thus show their appreciation of the Council's efforts in printing volumes of permanent value relating to the County.

Hertfordshire Parish Registers.—The Council are glad to learn that Mr. W. P. W. Phillimore is making steady progress with the transcribing of these. The Rev. F. W. Ragg has finished those of Puttenham and Aldbury in the extreme north-west; the Rev. H. C. Curtis, of Great Berkhamstead, has made good progress with his Registers; Mr. W. H. C. Boswell, of St. Albans, is engaged on those of St. Stephen's, St. Albans; Mr. Wilton Hall has placed at Mr. Phillimore's disposal a copy of the early Registers of Hatfield; and the Rev. A. Amos has promised to help with the Datchworth Registers.

Further help is still needed, and more subscribers (at £1 1*s*. per annum for two Registers), as the necessary number is not yet sufficient to justify commencing to print.

There are many transcripts of Registers in the Archdeacon's office at Hitchin. Will members in the district assist by undertaking to make copies of any of these?

Archæological Notes and Queries.—This column in the *Hertfordshire Mercury*, which appears the first Saturday in each month, is now in the sixth year of its existence. During the coming year a very interesting series of articles upon Hertfordshire Fonts, by Mr. H. P. Pollard, will appear therein. Arrangements have been made with the Publishers whereby those interested may obtain the twelve monthly issues which contain this column post free for 2*s*.

Exploration Fund.—In April last the following appeal for contributions in aid of this Fund was sent out to every member:—

Exploration Fund.

"The Council desire to draw the attention of members and friends to the above Fund, as opportunities are now offered for investigation on the sites of the ancient Castle of Anstey and the two long-lost churches of Berkesdon and Wakeley.

"It is very desirable that researches of this nature should be undertaken by the Society, but it is impossible to do so unless sufficient financial help is forthcoming, the Council not deeming it prudent that the ordinary funds of the Society should be devoted to this purpose. Donations of any amount will be welcomed by the Hon. Treasurer, and particulars of the work that it is proposed to undertake will be given, if desired, by the Hon. Secretary."

The Council regret to report that the response to this was most

inadequate, the total amount received being only 15*s*., which barely paid for printing the appeal. It is most discouraging to those members who give their time to this work for the benefit of the Society and posterity, and it is hoped that every member who can do so, will send a small donation to the Fund of, say, half a crown with his or her annual subscription.

During the year some useful work has been accomplished at Wakeley, Berkesdon, and Thorley, the latter at the sole charge of Mr. W. Jasper. At the first-named the foundations of the long-forgotten church of St. Giles have been in part uncovered, but at Berkesdon negative results have rewarded the excavators. At Thorley an interesting series of underground passages, probably aqueducts, have been opened up. Detailed descriptions of the above have appeared in the Hertfordshire Notes and Queries column.

Photographs and Prints.—The Society is again indebted to Mrs. G. W. Sworder, Mr. A. Whitford Anderson, and Mr. E. E. Squires for the loan of negatives for the purpose of preparing lantern slides for use at the meetings. *Local Prints.*—The Society's collection of these, numbering about 2,000, is kept at the Museum, Fore Street, Hertford, and may be examined by members at any reasonable time.

Archæological Union.—With this issue is enclosed a copy of the Index to Archæological papers for 1902, by which members can see recorded all the best papers on antiquarian subjects that have appeared in that year.

Excursions, 1904.—During the year now entered upon, the Society hopes to pay visits to the following places :—

Sixteenth Excursion. Albury (Church and Hall), Little Hadham (Church and Hall).

Seventeenth Excursion. Buckland and Chipping, Reed and Therfield.

Eighteenth Excursion. Letchworth, Willian, and Great Wymondley.

The Council, in concluding their Report, would point out, that when a minimum of two hundred members is reached, a permanent increase in the size of the "Transactions" will be considered. There should be no difficulty, if members will only interest themselves, in securing this addition to our membership by the end of 1904.

BALANCE SHEET, 1903.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Balance of Exploration Fund		18	2
Subscriptions to ditto		15	0
152 Members' Subscriptions	79	16	0
Donations and Blocks	9	1	0
Postages			6
Balance Excursion Fund		10	6
Sale of "Transactions"	5	19	1
	£97	0	3

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Treasurer, Balance due 1902	9	0	9
Lantern Slides		16	10
Printing and Stationery	3	9	0
Annual Meeting Expenses	10	18	6
Library, Binding, and Insurance	10	8	6
Treasurer's and Secretary's Expenses and Postages	6	12	3
Exploration Expenses		17	0
"Transactions," Blocks and Printing	49	3	1
Balance in hand	5	14	4
	£97	0	3

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
Two overdue Subscriptions	1	1	0
Due on "Transactions"		5	0
In hand	5	14	4
Excess Liabilities over Assets	75	12	11
	£64	13	3

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
Austins' Account, "Transactions"	64	13	3
	£64	13	3

Compared with the books and vouchers and found correct,

J. R. COCKS, *Hon. Auditor.*

East Herts Archæological Society.

RULES, JANUARY 1, 1900.

1.—This Society shall be called the "East Herts Archæological Society."

2.—The term "East Herts" shall include the Hundreds of Braughing, Edwinstree, Hertford, Hitchin, and Odsey, parts of the Hundred of Cashio lying within the before-named Hundreds, and the north portion of the Hundred of Broadwater north of a line between the west point of Tewin and the east point of Ayot St. Peter.

3.—The objects of the Society shall be—

(*a*) To collect and publish information on the History and Antiquities of the District.

(*b*) To oppose and prevent, as far as may be practicable, the execution of any injuries with which ancient buildings and monuments of every description, within the District, may be from time to time threatened, and to collect accurate drawings, plans, and descriptions thereof.

4.—The Society shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members of both sexes. Candidates for admission must be proposed and seconded by Members, and may be elected at any General or Council Meeting.

5.—An Ordinary Member shall pay an Annual Subscription of 10*s.* 6*d.*, to be due in advance on the 1st of January, and remain a Member of the Society until he withdraws from it by a notice in writing to the Secretary, or fails, after due notice, to pay his Subscription within twelve months of its becoming due.

6.—The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Editor, Honorary Secretary, and Local Honorary Secretaries, all of whom shall be elected for the year at the Annual Meeting.

7.—The General Management of the Affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Council, consisting of the Officers and of twenty Members elected from the general body of the Members, five of whom shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election. Ten of these shall form an Executive Committee, and be indicated by an asterisk (*).

8.—The Council shall meet to transact the ordinary business of the Society, not less than twice a year. They shall have the power to make Bye-laws, appoint Committees, frame Reports, and prepare Accounts, duly audited, for submission to the Annual Meeting, etc. At the Meetings of the Council, four to be a quorum, and the Chairman to have a casting vote.

9.—The ordinary General Meetings of the Society shall be held at such times and places, being within the boundaries of East Herts, as the Council shall determine.

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East Herts Archæological Society.

TRANSACTIONS.

VOL. II, PART III.

1904.

HERTFORD:
PRINTED BY STEPHEN AUSTIN & SONS, LIMITED.

1905

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East Herts Archæological Society.

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Young, Miss, Mangrove, Hertford.

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Page, William, F.S.A., Whitehall Garden, Westminster.
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Subscriptions are due January 1st, and should be paid to the Society's Bankers, BARCLAY AND COMPANY, LIMITED, *Hertford; or to the* HON. TREASURER, *25, Castle Street, Hertford.*

Ladies and gentlemen desirous of joining the Society are requested to communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

Should any errors, omissions of honorary distinctions, etc., be found in the list of Members, it is requested that notice thereof be given to the Hon. Secretary, Ivy Lodge, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

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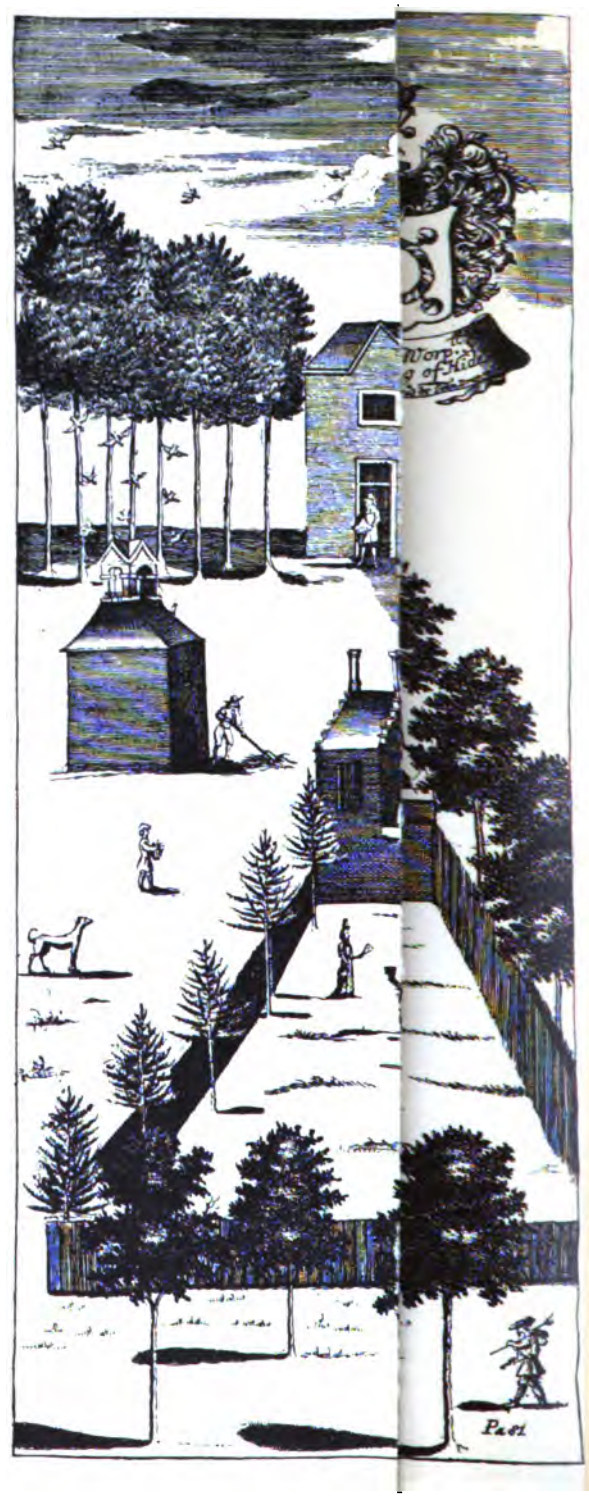
NOTE.

As the matter contained in the papers contributed may sometimes be of a more or less controversial character, the Council wish it to be understood that they do not necessarily endorse all the statements made by the writers.



HYDE HALL, SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

"The Manor of Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth," Chauncy tells us, "is situated upon an hill on the east side of the River Stort. In the time of the Conqueror it was included among the lands of Jeoffrey de Magnavil, which he held in this vill, for there is no mention of it in Domesdei Book." It takes its name from the family of Hyde, who, Salmon thinks, took theirs from a *hide* of land, their estate here being divided from the rest of Magnavil's manor by the river, but being held probably under him.

It has been argued that the Manor of Hyde Hall ought properly to be a part of Essex, and not of Hertfordshire, since the Stort, flowing here fairly due north and south, forms the division between the two counties, the land to the east being Essex, that to the west, Herts. Chauncy says "the reason why lands lying in one county were sometimes laid to the adjacent county was, when the sheriff of the one county had lands in the neighbouring one, he would by composition, or grants from the king, procure the manor or lands to be annexed to his own jurisdiction, and by reason hereof made it a part of his own county, and incorporated it with the same." It is probable, therefore, that Hyde Hall, notwithstanding its geographical position, was placed in Hertfordshire because Magnavil, the over-lord, held lands in this county, and it was consequently more convenient for him to have it adjudicated with the remainder of his possessions than to hold it under the authorities of Essex.

In the reign of Henry III Hyde Hall passed to Thomas Jocelyn, by his marriage with Maud, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Sir Thomas Hide, in which name of Jocelyn it has continued to the present day (1728), and is their chief seat lying within the Duchy of Lancaster. The history of Hyde Hall thus becomes the history of the ancient house of Jocelyn, and it behoves us to study it in brief.

Salmon, who wrote in 1728, also speaks in praise of the Jocelyns as follows:—

"This family have been longer in Hertfordshire than any other that are now possessed of an estate here. Sir Strange, the present Baronet, is the twenty-third in lineal descent from Sir Gilbert Jocelyn, who came in with the Conqueror."

Then to prove this, he gives in order the names of the twenty-three, with the names of their wives and their wives' fathers. We will consider only a few of the most eminent among them. Sir Gilbert, the founder of the family in 1066, Salmon continues,

"May be supposed to have been of the town of Jocelyn, in Bretany, as he is written Gilbertus de Jocelyne, and there is still a town there of that name, as the map shews. He was, according to the tradition of the family (some of whom have been diligent antiquaries), the father of Gilbert, the author and founder of an English order, and from him called 'Gilbertines.' This latter Gilbert was buried in the Church of Sempringham among his nuns."

The arms of Jocelyn are: Azure, a wreath argent and sable, with four hawks' bells towards the corners of the escutcheon, or; Crest, on a wreath, a falcon's leg erased à la cuisse, gules, belled proper, and motto "Faire mon devoir." The original of the coat of arms seemed to Salmon to be "the tenure of some estate by the service of keeping hawks for the King." Whether this was the case or not, the Jocelyns certainly held many prominent posts, and were much at Court.

Sir Ralph Jocelyn, citizen and draper, of London, was made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Elizabeth Woodville, Queen to Edward IV. He was Sheriff of London, a representative in Parliament, and, as appeared by his brass formerly in Sawbridgeworth Church, was twice Lord Mayor of London: "Pray for the Soul of Ralph Jocelyn, formerly Knight, twice Lord Mayor of London, who died October 25, 1478." Cussans says, "by the reading desk in the nave is a slab, on which one shield of arms and two small plates, representing sixteen boys and six girls, only remain; from a sketch in the Harl. MSS. this also appears to be part of the memorial to Ralph Jocelyn, the Lord Mayor," but the shield and plates have disappeared since 1870.

Lying on the chancel floor of Sawbridgeworth Church is a brass in good preservation (dated 1470) in memory of Galfridus Jocelyn and his two wives, Katherine and Joanna, who were contemporaries of Ralph, the Lord Mayor. Galfridus is in civilian's dress, with a set of merchant's calculating beads at his girdle, and his wives wear the quaint butterfly headdress of that time.

John Jocelyn, great-grandson of the Lord Mayor, has a fine altar tomb on the north side of the chancel. Above it we read: "Here lyeth John Jocelyn, Esq. and Philippa his wife, which John died A.D. 1525." Beneath, are their recumbent figures, which are carved in alabaster, and somewhat mutilated. John Jocelyn is dressed in mail, with the head bare; his helmet, ornamented with the family crest (a falcon's leg erased) is lying beyond his head. The lady

has a closely fitting cap, a dress opening down the front to show the petticoat, and a long girdle round the neck, hanging from the shoulders to the feet.

Sir Thomas, son of the above, and heir at the age of 19, was made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Edward VI. Edward Jocelyn, who was the next heir, was baptised by Archbishop Cranmer, and the Protestant King, Edward VI, was his godfather; he was also probably the King's namesake.

Edward's younger brother, John Jocelyn, is an interesting figure. While the former was probably a follower of the reformed faith, the latter was undoubtedly a representative of the new learning. His studies were many and varied. He was a Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, and gave £100 towards founding a Hebrew Lectureship there. "He understood well the Saxon language, and published a Saxon Dictionary. He was Secretary to Archbishop Parker, and had a great share in the collection [Salmon, *sic*] of a book 'De Antiquitatæ Ecclesiæ Britannicæ,' published by the Archbishop." His studies did not, however, bring him the reputation he merited. His epitaph in High Roothing Church, Essex, plaintively records that—

> "But others took the Praise and Fame of his deserving Wit,
> And his Inventions, as their own, to Printing did commit."

In 1645 Sir Robert Jocelyn, Sheriff of the County of Hertford, received the honour of knighthood from his Sovereign; twenty years later his eldest son, also a Sir Robert Jocelyn, was created first Baronet by Charles II, of whom he seems to have been an ardent follower. Among the family portraits at Hyde Hall are no less than five large canvasses (in each the figures are nearly life size), representing the adventures and disguises of Charles II, when "on his travels." Sir Robert died in 1712 at the age of 90, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Strange Jocelyn, the second Baronet.

Hyde Hall has a ghost, and the spirit that walks, or, in this instance (as befits so illustrious a house), rides, is supposed to be Sir John Jocelyn, the third Baronet. Tradition affirms that during his life Sir John quarrelled with the Vicar of Sawbridgeworth, because the latter refused to consent to his burial with his favourite hunter in consecrated ground. He therefore left instructions that he should be buried in the Park, and the horse should be slaughtered and buried with him. It is said, moreover, that at certain seasons of the year, Sir John, appropriately accoutred, his charger breathing fire, rides at full speed down the avenue—and then vanishes.

Mr. Gerish has furnished a copy of his will, which throws light on the question of the burial, and shows tradition to be partly correct. In it, after giving instructions concerning the bestowal of his property, Sir John says:—

"I will my body to be buried in the circle of yews in the grand avenue to Hyde Hall, attended only by my servants, or such relations or others as shall happen to be at Hyde Hall at the time of my decease, or such neighbours as please to come the day after my decease, at the setting of the sun, without waiting for directions from my executor, and by such person as shall happen to preside at Hyde Hall in case I shall die there, if elsewhere, then to be conveyed and buried in the same place with all convenient speed, and after my burial I will that my best ox be given to the poor of the town quarter in Sawbridgeworth, and I do make my brother Conyers Jocelyn sole executor and residuary legatee of this my will."

Such plain directions could not be ignored, and there is every reason to believe they were carried out. Sir John died on the 1st of November, 1741, and at that season of the year, "the setting of the sun," the time prescribed for the funeral, takes place at half past four in the afternoon. The site he chose, "the circle of yews in the grand avenue," is still to be seen, and it is now a sombre, lonely spot. Originally there seem to have been twelve of these yews, but though several trees have completely disappeared, and of others only the stumps remain, the circle is easily traced. There is no stone, or memorial, or even mound of earth to mark the grave—only a bare space in the wood, encircled by the dark stems and foliage. Since Sir John's time the approach to the mansion has been altered, and the grave lies some distance to the right of the present carriage drive.

The real reason for Sir John's wish to lie in the avenue has not yet been mentioned. It seems he was an ardent Dissenter and active supporter of Nonconformity in the parish, meetings for public worship being frequently held in the saloon of the hall. This accounts for any want of harmony between Sir John and the Vicar, and also for the former's wish not to be buried in the family vault in the parish church. It is probable that the "best ox" that was to furnish funeral bakemeats for "the poor of the town quarter in Sawbridgeworth," may be the original of the "charger" of the ghost story. For the rest, Sir John was a barrister, and died unmarried.

Robert Jocelyn, a younger contemporary of Sir John, also a barrister, was the first of the family to achieve renown in Ireland. He entered the Irish Parliament in 1725, became Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1737, and held this high post for seventeen years. He was elevated to the Irish peerage by the title of Baron Newport

in 1743, and was created Viscount Jocelyn in 1755, by which latter title he is best known. There is a fine marble bust of him in Sawbridgeworth Church, close to the pulpit. The Lord Justice is depicted in full wig, the family arms are carved on the pedestal, and around this are his insignia of office. Below is a circular medallion in bas-relief, representing Justice blindfold, with her scales. The fifth Earl Roden, who died in 1897, bequeathed to the King's Inn in Dublin, a portrait of his ancestor, the first Viscount Jocelyn.

Afterwards we find his son, the second Viscount, was Auditor General of Ireland from 1750 to 1797, and in recognition of his services he was, in 1771, created Earl Roden of High Roding, co. Tipperary. He had succeeded to the Baronetcy on the death of Sir Conyers Jocelyn, the fourth Baronet.

Robert Jocelyn, the second Earl Roden, was born at Dundalk in 1756, and died at Hyde Hall in 1820. Both he and his Countess, the Lady Frances Theodosia, are buried in Sawbridgeworth Church, and a marble tablet near the pulpit records their decease.

Percy Jocelyn, the third son of the first Earl Roden, was Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, and in 1809 was translated to the see of Clogher; he was, however, deposed in 1820.

Robert Jocelyn, the third Earl Roden, succeeded to the title in 1820. He was Grand Master of the Irish Society, and for ten years Member of Parliament for Dundalk. He was created in 1821 a British peer, by the title of Baron Clanbrassill of Hyde Hall, Hertfordshire, and Dundalk, Ireland. He was also Justice of the Peace, but was removed after Dolly's Brae riots in 1849. He died at Edinburgh in 1870, at the age of 82 years.

Viscount Jocelyn, his eldest son, predeceased him, having (as is still well remembered in Sawbridgeworth) died of cholera in the Tower of London, where his regiment was stationed at the time. He was interred in the family vault under the chancel of Sawbridgeworth Church.

The title therefore passed to the Viscount's son, the grandson of the third Earl Roden, but he, always delicate, died abroad of phthisis, unmarried, and was buried at Cannes.

John-Strange, the fifth Earl Roden, uncle of the fourth Earl, and second son of the third Earl Roden, was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Scots Guards, and served in the Crimea, taking part in the battles of Alma, Inkermann, and Balaclava. He was also Knight of the Legion of Honour and of the Medjidie, and is described as of Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth, and Tollymore Park, co. Louth. He died July 30th, 1897, and was buried in Sawbridgeworth Churchyard.

William Henry Jocelyn, the sixth Earl Roden, the present holder of the title, is a cousin of the fifth Earl. He was born in 1842, and is an officer in His Majesty's Navy.

The mansion of Hyde Hall is well placed on high ground, and is approached by a wooded drive opening on to a broad sweep of level sward. Clutterbuck tells us "it was partly re-built in 1806–7 in a castellated form, by the younger Wyatt, and it is said that the older mansion of the Jocelyn's was incorporated with it; the open quadrangle in the centre of the house was enclosed, and converted into a spacious and lofty entrance hall with a skylight dome, and at that time also many new and handsome rooms were added."

By the courtesy of Mrs. Mann, the house has been examined from the roof to the cellars. The original house was evidently quadrangular, as Clutterbuck describes it, with apparently a room, or a room and corridor, on each of the sides, and with an open space in the centre of the building. Judging from the thickness of the walls—now inside ones—that abut on the present central hall, and from the rather low ceilings of the rooms, a large part of the mansion is older than the beginning of the last century.

The wall next the old courtyard on the south side is of greater thickness than the others. It is hollow, and has ample space for a man to walk inside it. There are indications of a small staircase having been built into this wall. If so, it led from the first storey down into the old courtyard. The architect under whom the most recent alterations were effected thought that part of the present wine-cellar may have been the kitchen of the former mansion, and an old brick archway is pointed out as the probable site of the fireplace. The present drawing-room, and the bedroom over it, are waggon-roofed, and at the corners of the drawing-room mantelpiece are two falcons, the Jocelyn badge, beautifully carved in marble.

There is a tradition that Sawbridgeworth railway station was built on the site of the fish-ponds of the Old Hall.

The present approach to the mansion is evidently not the original one. Among the trees of the rookery (to the left of which the road now winds uphill) can be seen an ancient avenue of elms and chestnuts leading from the lodge gates towards the old front entrance. Probably the road was diverted to give Sir John's grave, which always had an eerie reputation, a wide berth, quite as much as for the purpose of leading more gracefully to the front entrance of the mansion.

The mansion contains a number of portraits of the Jocelyn

family—Gilbertus de Jocelyn the founder; the Lord Chancellor of Ireland; Sir John Jocelyn, as he appeared in the flesh; the first Earl Roden; and others.

Of the occupiers of Hyde Hall, the second Earl Roden (died 1820) lived here, also the Viscount Jocelyn. Lord Petre hired the mansion 1841–5, and Mr. and Mrs. Bischoffsheim came about 1862 and remained till 1876. They laid out the gardens much as they are at present.

In 1880 the Rev. W. Hiley was the tenant. He was a successful army coach, and had among his pupils for a short time one of the Princes of Teck. A terrible tragedy took place during Mr. Hiley's term of residence, which is still well remembered:—

It was on a glorious summer Sunday of June, 1883, that Mrs. Hiley, accompanied by some of the pupils, went to a staircase window to see a hornet's nest in process of construction on the roof. Although it was known the skylight was unsafe, the unfortunate lady unthinkingly stepped out upon it and fell through. Her head struck the floor below with great violence, killing her on the spot.

The late Mr. T. Mann came to Hyde Hall in 1888, and since his death Mrs. Mann and her family have continued to live there.

ELIZABETH FLORENCE MORRIS.

DR. CHARLES WADE.

THIS worthy antiquary (whose collections towards a history of Sawbridgeworth have been fortunately preserved, and are now in the possession of the Hon. Secretary of the East Herts Archæological Society) was a member of an old 'West Country' family, whose ancestors came from Filton in Gloucestershire. An interesting account of the Wade family and its various branches, is to be found in a work entitled "The Wade Genealogy, Illustrated," which was compiled by Stuart C. Wade. One branch of the Wade family settled at Braughing and Standon in Hertfordshire, and members of this house are still living at Stevenage and Dunmow.[1]

Charles Wade's paternal home was at Cross in Somersetshire, his father being Dr. Edward Wade (a surgeon), and his grandfather Nathaniel Newton Wade, of Henbury, Gloucestershire. He was born on May 16th, 1844, and was educated at Long Ashton, Somerset, and Hurstpierpoint. He proceeded to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he became a dresser to the late Sir James Paget, and afterwards clinical clerk to the late Dr. Black. After qualifying, he acquired a practice at Banwell in Somerset, removing from there to Weston-super-Mare, and finally to Hatfield Broad Oak.

Dr. Wade married on September 30th, 1884, Sarah, only daughter of the late Benjamin Todd, of Finchley. His end was very sudden, occurring directly after he had sung at a concert at Hatfield Broad Oak. The excitement, and heat of the room, are supposed to have been too much for a weak heart, and he expired before he could be conveyed home. This tragic event took place on the 28th November, 1884. A posthumous child was born on August 8th, 1885, and died on September 1st following.

Dr. Wade was buried in a vault in the churchyard of the village he loved so well, and on a ledger stone is the following inscription: –

[1] Nathaniel Wade, better known as "Traitor Wade," was an ancestral connection of the subject of this memoir. He was in a way connected with Hertfordshire as one of the conspirators in the so-called Rye House Plot, and afterwards took part in Monmouth's rebellion. He earned his sobriquet by betraying all his friends and associates, thus gaining a pardon, and subsequently obtained a lucrative appointment as Town Clerk of Bristol.

"In memory of
CHARLES WADE, M.R.C.S.,
of Hatfield Broad Oak,
beloved husband of
Sarah Wade.
Died Nov. 28, 1884.
Aged 40.

Also of
CHARLES NEWTON WADE,
infant son of the above.
Died Sept. 1, 1885.
'The Lord giveth and
the Lord hath taken away.'"

Dr. Wade was a member of the Somerset Archæological and Historical Society, and possessed many valuable papers, deeds, and documents, relating to his family. All these were sold at Bishop's Stortford, but into whose hands they passed it has not been possible to ascertain. The Sawbridgeworth papers were purchased by Mr. J. L. Glasscock, who in 1903 disposed of them to the Hon. Secretary of the East Herts Archæological Society.

In order to preserve the manuscripts they have been carefully mounted on sheets of cartridge paper, and substantially bound in a demy quarto volume, with title-page, a photograph of Dr. Wade, and a brief list of the contents.

Although only twenty years have elapsed since the subject of this scanty memoir passed away, nearly all who knew him intimately have vanished to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." The writer has been in correspondence with a lady who, when quite young, was well acquainted with Dr. Wade. From the information thus obtained it appears that Charles Wade apparently passed an unhappy boyhood, both at home and at school, the effect of which was to cast a gloom upon his after years. The little brightness that came into his life seems to have been during the vacations spent with his friends, the Brickwells, at Sawbridgeworth.[1] He was the senior of Dr. Brickwell at the hospital, and appears to have been a quiet, studious, young man, who appreciated the pleasant surroundings of the village, and the home-like and refined atmosphere of his friend's house. He took the keenest interest in the church, and the families whose dust laid therein, his tastes

[1] The writer desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to Miss Brickwell and to Mr. Newton Wade for their assistance in supplying him with material for this brief memoir.

perhaps being more genealogical than archæological. The only County History to which, at the period alluded to, he had access, was that of Sir Henry Chauncy, which he borrowed from Mr. Mullinger's library at Bishop's Stortford. This refers, of course, to his student days, and long previous to his settling down at Hatfield Broad Oak.

It must be said that Dr. Wade did not possess great business qualifications—he was too much of a book-lover and antiquary for the sordid yet essential details of life. It is, indeed, most rare to find a delver into the past who cares for financial considerations. He is said, too, to have possessed a great aversion for persons in authority, but this again is a characteristic frequently met with in the scholar and antiquary. One so constantly finds books, papers, and records of value to the historian in the hands of wealthy, yet ignorant people, possessed of some petty position, who absolutely refuse access to these treasures, and who remind us of the celebrated fable of the surly dog that laid upon the hay in the stable, and denied the patient horse his provender.

There can be little doubt that Dr. Wade purposed publishing his manuscripts, but this intention was frustrated by his sudden death. The present owner proposes, from time to time, to print the various papers (which require considerable revision and arrangement) in the Society's Transactions; in the meantime they are always accessible to anyone interested in local history.

W. B. Gerish.

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THE

MAYERS AND THEIR SONG,

OR SOME ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST OF MAY AND ITS OBSERVANCE IN HERTFORDSHIRE.

In these days when so much is done to equalise the seasons, when in the florist's, spring treads on the heels of autumn, and Christmas windows are gay with tropical fruits, when fresh meat is always on the stalls, and the earth is tapped of its light and warmth to make up for the absent sun; it is difficult to realise the delight and enthusiasm with which our forefathers welcomed the yearly miracle of the spring. It meant so much for them—release from the cold and darkness that fell hardly on all but the rich; a feast of colour to eyes weary of winter greys; varied and plentiful food to palates dulled by salt meat, fish, pease-pudding, and rye bread. No wonder that the first hint of the sun's return at Christmas, and the fulfilment of the promise of spring at May Day, were welcomed with an abandonment of joy to which our modern festivals offer but a pale parallel. It is doubtful, however, whether, even in the far-off days when the ceremonies possessed the highest religious sanction and significance, they were celebrated with a finer exuberance than in the comparatively recent times when this country was still "Merrie England." "Fetching in the May," or "Going a-maying," was then a most important festival in which people of all ranks took part. Henry VIII himself rode a-maying with Queen Catherine and his court. Every village had its May-pole, and the first of May was everywhere "the maddest, merriest day of all the glad New Year." The celebration was recognised by the Roman Church, the note for the 30th of April in an old calendar being, "The boys go out and seek May-trees."[1] Chaucer represents the whole court as going into the fields "on May-day when the lark begins to rise."

> "To fetch the floures fresh and branch and blome,
> And namely hawthorne brought both page and grome,
> With freshe garlands party blew and white,
> And than rejoyced in their great delight."[2]

[1] Brand's "Antiquities," vol. i, p. 217.
[2] "Court of Love," vv. 1431–5.

The poet makes the whole court pelt each other with flowers, "the primrose, the violete and the gold," but the general custom was to bring home the branches and flowers as an adornment for the house. Even the barns and the cow-houses were carefully decorated long after the primitive intention of the ceremony had been forgotten, and it had degenerated into a licensed opportunity for revelry and love-making.

The lover of old customs owes little to the Puritans, for they did their best to root them out, but he is certainly indebted to them incidentally for some valuable evidence as to those same customs, not otherwise attainable.

"What adoe make our yong men at the time of May," cries one writer of this period. "Do they not use night watchings to rob and steale young trees out of other men's grounde, and bring them home into their parishe, with minstrels playing before: and when they have set it up they will decke it with floures and garlands and daunce rounde (men and women togethir moste unseemeley and intolerable, as I have proved before) about the tree."[1]

In a recent work dealing with the Puritans in Boston, U.S.A., we are told of a certain Thomas Morton, who made himself obnoxious by his English church sympathies, and his observance of May Day customs, "which represented the phases of English life most objectionable to the Puritans who had left home in search of straighter, narrower, paths, (and it is not to be supposed that with the power to suppress, they would tolerate him); Winthorpe and his associates passed swift judgment, that he was to be set in the bilboes, and returned to England." This decision was speedily acted upon, his goods were seized to defray the cost of his journey back to his native land, and as the ship left the harbour he could behold the flames rising from his dismantled home, as it was being burnt to the ground by his implacable persecutors.

The custom of going into the woods to fetch in the May is not by any means peculiar to England. It was, until recently, very general throughout Europe, and still survives in many districts. This wide distribution at once stamps it as an ancient observance, and indeed it was already represented as such as long ago as the thirteenth century.[2] In some districts the branches that were brought in were fastened over the house door or upon the roof, or planted in front of the cattle stalls, a separate bush being attached for each head of cattle.

[1] Northbrooke: "Treatise wherein Dicing, Dauncing, etc., are reproved," 1657, p. 140. Philpots: "The Sacred Tree," 1897.

[2] Mannhardt, vol. i, p. 160.

It now remains to trace back the ceremony—this survival—to its origin, and to show that once it was the essential outcome of a living creed, and had a serious and, so to speak, sacramental significance. There can be little doubt that the ceremony of bringing in the May arose from a process of reasoning, that the branch of May was a symbolical representation of the genius of vegetation. The gods or spirits of these far-off times had their habitation, or at least manifested their activity, in the tree. The gifts of rain and sunshine were in their hands—they made the crops to grow, the herds to multiply, and caused the race to be perpetuated. It was therefore no more unnatural for an ignorant peasantry to believe that the same power and influence existed in the cut branches of trees, than it was for our forefathers in pre-Reformation times to expect help from sacred relics. In each case the process of thought was the same. Eventually the ceremony of carrying the branches round the village, the primitive purpose of which was to make each house a sharer in the benevolent offices of the tree-spirit, degenerated into a meaningless observance, a pretext for indulging in festivities, and levying contributions. But there can be no doubt that the securing of fertility and abundance, together with the supply of rain and sunshine necessary thereto, was originally the root-idea of the world-wide spring observances.[1]

Mr. Frazer, in his valuable work entitled "The Golden Bough," states that the common European custom of placing a green bush on May Day before, or on, the house of a beloved maiden, probably originated in the belief of the fertilising power of the tree spirit.[2]

Referring to the beneficent qualities commonly ascribed to these genii of the woods, he[3] explains how it is easy to understand why customs like the May-tree or May-pole have prevailed so widely, and figured so prominently, in the popular festivals of European peasants. In spring or early summer, or even on Midsummer Day, it was, and still is, in many parts of Europe, the custom to go out into the woods, cut down a tree, and bring it into the village, where it is set up amid general rejoicings. Or the people cut branches in the woods, and fasten them on every house. The intention of these customs is to bring home to the village, and to each house, the blessings which the tree-spirit has to bestow. Hence the custom in some places of planting a May-tree before

[1] Philpot's "The Sacred Tree," 1897, pp. 21–23.
[2] Frazer's "The Golden Bough," vol. i, 1900, pp. 196–7.
[3] Ibid., p. 195.

every house, or of carrying the village May-tree from door to door, that every household may receive its share of the blessing. Out of the mass of evidence on this subject a few examples may be selected. In the North of England it was formerly the custom for young people to rise very early on the morning of the first of May, and go out with music into the woods, where they broke branches, and adorned them with nosegays, and crowns of flowers. This done, they returned about sunrise, and fastened the flower-decked branches over the doors and windows of their houses. At Abingdon in Berkshire, young people formerly went about in groups on May morning, singing a carol, of which the following are two of the verses:—

"We've been rambling all this night,
And sometime of this day;
And now returning back again,
We bring a garland gay.

"A garland gay we bring you here,
And at your door we stand.
It is a sprout well budded out,
The work of our Lord's hand."[1]

At Saffron Walden and the village of Debden, in Essex, on the first of May, little girls go about in parties from door to door singing a song almost identical with the foregoing, and carrying garlands; a doll dressed in white is usually placed in the middle of each garland.[2] Mr. Frazer then gives details of similar rites at Northampton and Uttoxeter.

At Watford in Hertfordshire, groups of children, principally girls, go about the streets from door to door on May Day singing some verses, of which two agree almost verbally with those which, as we have seen, are sung at Abingdon. They are dressed in white, and adorned with gay ribbons and sashes of many hues. "Two of the girls carry between them on a stick what they call 'the garland,' which, in its simplest form, is made of two circular hoops, intersecting each other at right angles; a more elaborate form has, in addition, smaller semicircles inserted in the four angles formed by the meeting of the hoops at the top of 'the garland.' These hoops are covered with any wild flowers in season, and are further ornamented with ribbons."

[1] Dyer's "Popular British Customs," p. 254.

[2] Dyer's "Popular British Customs," pp. 233, 237 et seq.; Chambers' "Book of Days," p. 578.

(Mr. Frazer gives further instances from Bampton-in-the-Bush, Oxfordshire, and Sevenoaks.)

In the streets of Cambridge little girls regularly make their appearance every May Day with female dolls enclosed in hoops, which are covered with ribbons and flowers. These they show to passers-by, inviting them to remember the May-lady by paying a small sum to her bearers.[1] Mr. W. H. D. Rouse states that he has witnessed the ceremony almost annually for many years, and it was performed in the year 1900 as usual. Many of the hoops have no doll, and ribbons or rags of coloured cloth are more conspicuous than flowers in their decoration.[2]

Such, then, are some of the ways in which the tree spirit or the spirit of vegetation is represented in the customs of our European peasantry. From the remarkable persistence of such custom all over Europe, we are justified in concluding that tree-worship was once an important element in the religion of the Aryan race, and that the rites and ceremonies of the worship were marked by great uniformity everywhere, and did not substantially differ from those which are still, or were till lately, observed by our peasants at their spring and Midsummer festivals. Therefore it is hardly rash to infer, from this consensus of popular customs, that the Greeks and Romans, like the other Aryan peoples of Europe, once practised forms of tree-worship similar to those which are still kept up amongst us. In the palmy days of ancient civilization, no doubt, the worship had sunk to the level of vulgar superstition and rustic merrymaking, as it has done among ourselves. We need not therefore be surprised that the traces of such ancient rites are few and slight in early literature. They are not less so in the polite literature of modern Europe; and the negative argument cannot be allowed to go for more in the one case than in the other. Enough, however, of positive evidence remains to confirm the presumption drawn from analogy. Much of this evidence has been collected and analysed with his usual learning and judgment by Professor Mannhardt.[3]

Mr. Frazer also cites certain Greek festivals which he opines to be classical equivalents of an English May Day in olden times.

The Countess Evelyn Martinengo-Cæsaresco, in her valuable work entitled "The Study of Folk Songs," 1886, says:—

[1] Percy Manning in *Folklore*, vol. iv, 1893, p. 403 et seq.
[2] W. H. D. Rouse in *Folklore*, vol. iv, 1893, pp. 53, 224.
[3] See especially his "Antike Wald und Feld Kulte."

"Of English songs treating of that 'observance' or 'rite' of May to which Chaucer and Shakespeare bear witness, there are unfortunately few. The old nursery rhyme—

'Here we go a piping,
First in spring and then in May,'

tells the usual story of house-to-house visiting, and expected largess."

In Devonshire, children used to take round a richly-dressed doll; such a doll is still borne in triumph by the children of Great Missenden, Bucks, where a doggerel is sung, of which the concluding verses are:—

"A branch of May I have brought you,
And at your door I stand;
'Tis but a spray that 's well put out
By the works of the mighty Lord's hand.

If you have got no strong beer
We 'll be content with small,
And take the good-will of your house,
And give good thanks for all.

God bless the master of this house,
The mistress also,
Likewise the little children
That round the table go.

My song is done, I must be gone,
No longer can I stay.
God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May."

The poets of Great Missenden not being prolific, the two middle stanzas are used at Christmas as well as on May Day.

G. F. Northall, in his "English Folk Rhymes," 1892, says:—

"These [May songs] are probably alterations—by the Puritans—of ancient May verses. The custom of 'going a Maying' was not confined to children. It is mentioned in Chaucer's 'Court of Love' and Malory's 'King Arthur.' In Fosbrooke's 'Encyclopædia of Antiquities' it is stated that the Goths had also the custom of bringing in the May."

Stubbe, in his "Anatomie of Abuses," says:—

"Agaynst May Day . . . every Parishe, Toune and Village assemble themselves together, bothe men, women, and children, olde and yong, . . . and either goyng all together or dividying themselves into companies, they goe some to the Woodes and Groves, where they spend all the night in plesant pastimes; and in the morning they return, bringing with them birch and branches of trees to deck their assemblies withall . . . and then they fall to daunce about like as the heathen people did."

Herrick's "Hesperides" also describes this festival.

At Polebrook, on the last few days of April, the Queen of May and her attendants gather what flowers they can from the surrounding meadows, and call at the houses of the principal inhabitants to beg flowers, the gift or loan of ribbons, handkerchiefs, dolls, etc., with which to form their garland. This being arranged on hoops, the young maidens assemble on May-day morning, and carry it round the village, preceded by a fiddler, and a quaint song—very similar to the one used at Hitchin, and thought from its phraseology to have been written in the time of the Puritans—is sung by the Queen and her company at the different houses, a gratuity being solicited.

The garland is afterwards suspended by ropes from the school-house to an opposite tree, and the mayers and other children amuse themselves by throwing balls over it. With the money collected tea and cakes are provided for the joyous party, etc.[1]

A medley of verses was sung by the mayers on May Day, 1865, in the villages of Denton and Caldecote, in Cambridgeshire, when they went round with their garland.

Undoubtedly the best description of the manner in which May Day was observed in Hertfordshire, is that given in the "Every-day Book," under date May 1st, 1823,[2] by a correspondent, who says:

"On this day a curious custom is observed [at Hitchin], of which I will give you a brief account.

"Soon after three o'clock in the morning, a large party of town people and neighbouring labourers parade the town, singing the 'Mayers' Song.' They carry in their hands branches of may, and they affix one either upon or at the side of the doors of nearly every respectable house in the town; where there are knockers, they place these branches within the handles; that which was put into our knocker was so large that the servant could not open the door until the gardener came and took it out. The larger the branch is that is placed at the door, the more honourable to the house, or rather to the servants of the house. If in the course of the year a servant has given offence to any of the Mayers, then instead of a branch of may, a branch of elder with a bunch of nettles is affixed to her door: this is considered a great disgrace, and the unfortunate subject of it is exposed to the jeers of her rivals.

"On May morning, therefore, the girls look with some anxiety for their may-branch, and rise very early to ascertain their good or ill fortune. The houses are all thus decorated by four o'clock in the morning. Throughout the day parties

[1] Baker's "Northamptonshire Words and Phrases," vol. ii, p. 424; Sternberg's "Dialect of Folklore of Northamptonshire," p. 181. See also Cæsaresco's "Study of Folk Songs," and *Notes and Queries*, Ser. III, vol. vii, p. 373.

[2] "The Every-day Book," by William Hone, 2 vols., 1826; vol. i, pp. 283–284, entitled "May Day at Hitchin in Hertfordshire."

of these Mayers are seen dancing and frolicking in various parts of the town. The group that I saw to-day, which remained in Bancroft for more than an hour, was composed as follows:—First came two men with their faces blacked, one of them with a birch broom in his hand, and a large artificial hump on his back; the other dressed as a woman all in rags and tatters, with a large straw bonnet on and carrying a ladle: these are called 'Mad Moll and her husband': next came two men, one most fantastically dressed with ribbons and a great variety of gaudy coloured silk handkerchiefs tied round his arms from the shoulder to the wrists and down the thighs and legs to the ankles; he carried in his hand a drawn sword; leaning upon his arm was a youth dressed as a fine lady in white muslin, and profusely decked from top to toe with gay ribbons; these, I understood, were called the 'Lord and Lady' of the company; after these followed six or seven couples more, attired much in the same style as the Lord and Lady, only the men were without swords.

"When this group received a satisfactory contribution at any house, the music struck up from a violin, clarionet, and fife, accompanied by the long drum, and they began the merry dance, and very well they danced I assure you; the men-women looked and footed it so much like real women, that I stood in great doubt as to which sex they belonged, till I was assured that women were not permitted to mingle in these sports. While the dancers were merrily footing it, the principal amusement to the populace was caused by the grimaces and clownish tricks of Mad Moll and her husband. When the circle of spectators became so contracted as to interrupt the dancers, then Mad Moll's husband went to work with his broom, and swept the road-dust all round the circle, into the faces of the crowd, and when any pretended affronts were offered (and many were offered) to his wife, he pursued the offenders, broom in hand; if he could not overtake them, whether they were male or female, he flung his broom at them. These flights and pursuits caused an abundance of merriment.

"I saw another company of Mayers in Sun Street, and as far as I could judge from where I stood, it appeared to be of exactly the same description as that above mentioned, but I did not venture very near them, for I perceived Mad Moll's husband exercising his broom so briskly upon the flying crowd, that I kept at a respectful distance.

"The 'Mayers' Song' is a composition, or rather a medley, of great antiquity, and I was therefore very desirous to procure a copy of it; in accomplishing this, however, I experienced more difficulty than I had anticipated; but at length succeeded in obtaining it from one of the Mayers."

At Kelshall, between Buntingford and Royston, I am informed that early in the morning of the first of May about four men formerly visited the principal houses of the village and sang a song similar to that used at Therfield.[1] When the verses were finished a bunch of may was left at each door. The men then dispersed, each man going to his daily labour. When the day's work was over the men again gathered together, and, going through the village, called at each house where a branch of may had been left earlier in the day; of course, their avowed object was to gather

[1] See pp. 224–226.

alms. Generally the last house of call was the Crown Inn. Here, the song being again sung, the May Day celebration may be said to have finished.

The four men who usually formed the Mayers' party were probably the *best* singers in the village. For some time previously to the '1st' the song was practised in the neighbouring fields, and on the third Monday in April of each year the members of the Village Benefit Club met at the "Crown" for their club feast dinner. On this occasion the invariable custom was for the men to have a rehearsal of the May Day song.

Mr. R. J. Kingsley, a native of Sandon, but now residing in Nelson, N.Z., informs me that "The young men used to come round directly after midnight on April 30th and sing the song antiphonally, half taking the first two lines, the remaining half the other two. (At Christmas-time the old Christmas song was taken in the same way, all joining in the chorus.)

Next day, May 1st, they came dressed in white smocks profusely decorated with bunches of bright ribbon, tall silk hats likewise covered with ribbons, and long streamers of ribbon from the crown hanging down their backs. They brought a basket with cake, and that evening made a feast with the proceeds of their round. They left a bunch of hawthorn at the doors of all the larger houses.

Before the observance finally died out the feast had been discontinued, as it had degenerated into a mere carouse."

The Therfield custom was similar in many respects to that of Kelshall. Therfield adjoins Kelshall, but it is especially interesting, as one of the old Mayers still survives in the person of John Atkyns,[1] a farmer in that village. He kindly gave the Rector of Therfield the words of the song as he remembered it, and stated that the observance was discontinued fully fifty years ago in Therfield, but was continued later in the parish of Kelshall, and that the Mayers band consisted of four men who wore high hats, and smock frocks almost concealed by the plentiful supply of ribbons with which they were decorated. They left a bit of may at the doors of the houses during the night, and visited them, bearing a large branch, in the morning.

At Hare Street, Buntingford, the attire was similar, coloured ribbons round their hats and white smocks, but here one of the men was dressed in female attire. My informant (Miss L. Tolfts) states that "they used to sing during the night, and then in the morning they would go round to collect the money, much as the

[1] Living in 1904.

'waits' do now. This they divided, but there was no feast or anything."

At Watford and Letchworth, in 1883 and 1893 respectively, the day was still observed by the children, who sang a mutilated version of the Mayers' Song. The performance at Watford has already been referred to, but as with slight variations (a gaily dressed doll is usually a feature which appears to be omitted at Watford) it is still carried out at several places in Hertfordshire (at Hoddesdon, Buckland, and Wyddial, for example), I give it more fully:—

"On May Day, in this parish [Watford], groups of children, almost entirely girls, go about the streets from door to door, and singing verses of the Mayers' Song. They are dressed in white for preference, and decorate themselves with gay ribbons, and sashes of various colours. And I cannot find that any particular colours are prescribed by tradition. The 'garland' in shape calls to mind the 'Christmas' which used to form the centre of the Christmas decorations in Yorkshire some few years ago, except that the latter had a bunch of mistletoe inside the hoops. One of the children generally carries a purse or small bag to hold the coppers which may be collected."

The verses in question probably supplanted earlier ones, which possessed no religious significance. When, and in what way, this change took place we can only surmise by the fact that prefixed to some editions of the earlier English versions of the Bible are some verses, of which the first stanza is as follows:—

"Is. xx, 3, and xlix, 10. Here is the spring, where waters flow.
Rev. xxi, 6, and xx, 17. To quench our heat of sinne.
Jer. xxxiii, 15. Here is the tree where truth doth grow.
Ps. cxix, 160. To leade our lives therein."

This is almost word for word the eighth verse of the Mayers' Song.

The copy in the writer's possession is dated 1608, but there were several editions prior to this in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, called the Geneva Bible. It is therefore most probable that this song was sung at least as early as Queen Elizabeth's days. The dramatic part, and the grotesque attire, are relics of that passion for acting which was so prominent a characteristic of mediæval times.

The description of the Hitchin observance is by far the most elaborate. The performance there was of a decidedly dramatic character, and seems a mixture of mumming and maying. The Lord and Lady may be a survival of marriage by capture which is performed to-day by our children in the game called "Sally goes a weeping." It is interesting to note that "Nuts in May," really "Knots in May," the well-known children's pastime, is the May

Day observance reduced to the level of a game. The dressing in gay ribbons probably took the place of the floral decorations, although it was always customary for the performers to make themselves as smart as possible.

I have secured some nine variants of the song from various places in the county. Of course, they are all really modifications of one song, which it is estimated had at least twenty-five verses, although the longest version which I have obtained contains only eighteen. This is the song sung at Therfield about 1810, which was discovered in an old notebook at Buckland Rectory.[1] In addition to certain verses omitted, and extra verses added, to form these variants, many verbal alterations are found, but as these are of slight importance, rarely altering the general sense, I will not trouble to detail them here, although I have recorded all such variations.

The Therfield version is as follows :—

1.

"Remember me, poor Mayers all,
For here should we begin
To lead our lives in righteousness,
Else we shall die in sin.

2.

For if in sin that we shall die,
What a dreadful thing it will be,
And our poor souls for ever must lie
In pain and misery.

3.

The moon shines bright, and the stars give light,
A little before 'tis day;
Our heavenly Father He calls to us all,
And He bids us wake and pray.

4.

Awake! Awake! good people all,
Awake and you shall hear
How Christ He died for our sins,
For He loves us so dear.

5.

So dear, so dear has Christ loved us,
He died all on the Cross;
Oh we never, never shall do for Jesus Christ
As He has done for us.

[1] In 1903, and kindly lent to me by the Rector.

6.

For the life of man, it is but a span,
  'Tis like any fading flower,
He is here to-day and is gone to-morrow,
  And is cut down in one hour.

7.

Heaven's gates, Heaven's gates are open so wide,
  The past it is so plain,
That the man who leaves off his wicked, wicked ways,
  May return to the Lord again.

8.

Where is the well, that water flows?
  It quenches the heat of sin.
Where is the tree, where truth it grows?
  Lord, let us enter in.

9.

For 'tis when we die, if we die in sin,
  And likewise so shall rise,
Our sins, our sins they will be laid
  In order before our eyes.

10.

There are six days all in the week
  To serve the husbandman,
The seventh, seventh day is to serve the Lord,
  The Father and the Son.

11.

Our hedges and fields are clothed with green,
  As green as any leek,
Our heavenly Father He waters them
  With morning dew so sweet.

12.

So rise, fair maidens, to your casement,
  And view the bush so fair,
And we will come some other, other day,
  To taste of your brown beer.

13.

If none of your brown beer, I say,
  Pray give us a little small,
And we 'll be content with what we can get,
  And give God thanks for all.

14.

For 'tis we have been rambling this long night
  And some part of the day,
And now we are returned and back again
  And we brought you a branch of may.

15.

This branch of may we have brought you,
'Tis both fresh and green;
'Tis the handy, handy work of our Lord God;
God bless our Royal Queen.

16.

God bless our Royal King, I say,
And send him long to reign,
In health, in wealth and happy, happiness,
God's Gospel to maintain.

17.

Lord! send us peace and quietness,
The Lord send us health and grace;
The Lord send us peace and wars to cease,
For in Heaven's our dwelling-place.

18.

Now my song is begun and almost done,
No longer can I stay;
God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May."

In the Therfield version, taken down recently by the Rev. J. G. Hale, the 17th verse is omitted.

In the Hitchin version, taken down in 1826, the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 16th, and 17th verses are omitted.

In the Letchworth version, taken down in 1883, the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 16th, and 17th verses are omitted, but there are two additional verses:—

"Oh take a Bible in your hand,
And read a chapter through;
And when the Day of Judgment comes,
The Lord will think of you.

Oh repent! oh repent! you wicked, wicked men,
Repent while you are here;
For when the Day of Judgment comes
There's no repentance there."

In the Sandon version, written down from memory by Mr. Robert J. Kingsley, of Nelson, N.Z., the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th verses are omitted, and verses 12 and 13 are each extended to form two verses, thus:—

"Awake, fair maid, and from your casement
Come view your bush as it stands;
It is but a sprout, but it's well budded out,
'Tis the work of your Lord's hands.

Arise, fair maid, no longer sleep,
  Awake from your drowsy dream,
And step down into your dairy below,
  And bring us a mug of your cream.

It is not of your nice sweet cream that we crave,
  Nor the water that runs so clear,
But we ask one favour, that is, if you please,
  For to taste of your strong beer.

If you haven't got no strong beer in your house
  We will accept of some small;
For we are thankful for what we can get,
  And return the Lord thanks for all."

In the Watford version, taken down in 1893, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, and 17th verses are omitted, but there are three additional verses:—

"Here begins the merry month of May,
  The bright time of the year,
When Christ our Saviour died for us,
  Who loved us so dear.

A garland, a garland, a very pretty garland
  As ever you wish to see,
'Tis fit for the Queen Victoria,
  So please remember me.

I have a little purse within my pocket,
  Dressed up in silk and string,
And all I want is a little piece of money,
  So please to put within."

In the Barkway version, taken down quite recently by Mrs. Hudson, the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 16th, and 17th verses are omitted, but there is one additional verse:—

"Awake, awake, you pretty fair maid,
  Out of your drowsy dream,
And step downstairs to your dairy house
  And bring us a bowl of cream."

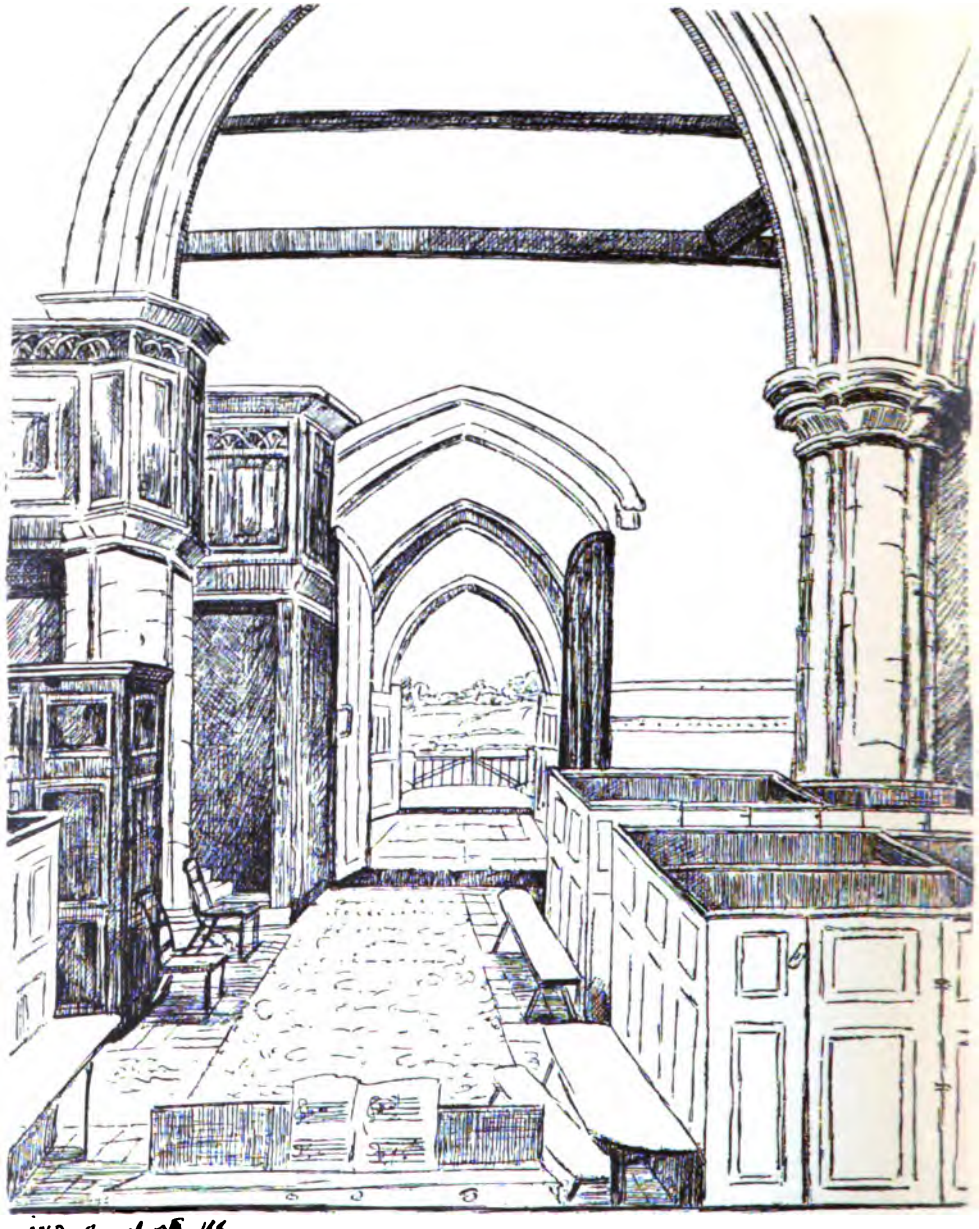
In the Buntingford version, taken down recently by Miss L. Tolfts, the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, and 17th verses are omitted, but there is one additional verse:—

"There's a tuft lies at your head, dear man,
  And another at your feet;
Your good words and your good deeds
  Will altogether meet."

In a book entitled "Songs of the Nativity," by W. H. Husk, is a carol called "The Moon Shone Bright," of which verses 1, 2, 4, 6, and 10 are to be found in the Therfield Mayers' Song. This carol, Mr. Husk says, is in the British Museum, and is entitled "A Song by F. B. P., to the tune of Diana," and is probably of the time of Elizabeth.

In conclusion, one may be pardoned for thinking it a matter for regret that old customs such as the May Day festival should have fallen into desuetude. Observances of this description serve to vary the dull monotony of life in our Hertfordshire villages, and one would welcome any attempt on the part of squire and parson to revive these almost forgotten sports and pastimes.

W. B. Gerish.



MLB August 9th 186

ALBURY CHURCH,

Interior—looking South.

(From a Sketch by Miss Bayliff in 1866.)

ALBURY CHURCH.

Albury is the second church in the county our Society has visited which was once a 'peculiar,' that is to say, not in the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Diocese, but under the Bishop of London. The living was in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's down to recent times; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners now represent the former owners. There have been recently printed in the Parish Magazine, translations (with notes) of three very interesting Visitations in the years 1252, 1297, and 1458. The original documents are in St. Paul's Cathedral Library, but why these particular accounts have been preserved, and not others, it is difficult to comprehend. As records of the state of the fabric, its furniture and ornament at these periods, the documents are of very great value to the local historian.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is admirably situated on the crown of the high land overlooking the valley of the Ash. The village is a curiously scattered one, the older portion clustering around the church, while the rest straggles along the Pelham Road for nearly a mile. If, as Salmon surmises, Albury Lodge is the site of the Saxon "Ealdburg" or "Old Bury," which gives title to the parish, it is rather strange that the church, if occupying the original site, should be so far away. Albury Hall is about the same distance to the north, and it may be that the owners of the manors arranged for the church to be erected upon a spot as nearly as practicable equidistant, Albury Lodge and Albury Hall being each about three-quarters of a mile, and Patmore Hall a mile distant. But this is, of course, merely conjecture.

There are apparently no traces of any earlier church which stood upon the site of the present structure. Our latest county historian, Cussans, places the date of the earliest part of the existing building at about the year 1320, but admits that this is only approximate. Judging, however, from the shape and moulding of the piers in the nave, and the windows in the chancel, we may fix the date at quite a century earlier. The curious little deep splayed opening, or window, (discovered in 1867) on the north side of the chancel also belongs to the Early English period.

The tower probably dates from the Decorated period, as it is specified in the 1297 Visitation that it was then of wood.

According to Cussans, "the hand of the modern restorer is but too plainly visible." The church has certainly been much restored, but on the whole without greatly injuring the architectural characteristics. Its interior before the last restoration was very badly arranged; a large three-decker pulpit, prayer-desk, and clerk's pew stood out in the middle of it, there were several large square pews, and one long one which reached from the nave back to the south-east wall; there was, however, no faculty pew in it.

A gallery was over the south aisle. This had been erected by the Brograve family of the Lodge Farm, and underneath it, and at the back of the very high pews, were several miserable little pens, where the labourers sat, and where, being quite out of sight, they used to play pitch and toss for beer, crack nuts, and go to sleep.

It was not till the Spring of the year 1867 that anything could be attempted towards its restoration, when Mr. Charles Stacey generously offered £50, provided a sufficient sum could be raised to restore and rearrange the church properly.

It was then decided at a meeting of the church authorities to borrow the sum of £300 from Government for repairs, on the security of the rates, if the Vicar could raise £350 for the rearrangement of the interior, but that the sum should not be mixed or diverted from these objects.

After examining the condition of the fabric, it was found that such extensive repairs were necessary that a rate of £80 was levied, and the Vicar undertook to supplement the fund for repairs by subscriptions, the call for which was responded to with unexpected liberality, and many of the Vicar's and Mrs. Bayliff's personal friends gave large sums. The work was begun in July. The tower arch, which had been blocked up, was reopened; it is of fine proportions, and lends dignity to the fabric. The floor was found to be full of burials near the surface, some of which had evidently been disturbed before. All the remains were reverently placed in a deep trench in the nave, running the length of the church, and the floor was raised. At one period there is said to have been a gallery across the tower arch, but this, as in most other churches, has been happily swept away. The roof was in a very bad state, and needed a great outlay to repair it.

The restoration was carried out at a cost of £1,184 19*s.*, and the collection at the opening amounted to £55 18*s.* 11½*d.*, and on the 21st of January, 1868, the church was reopened.

Some twenty years after the 'restoration,' the unsightly organ was erected as a memorial to the late Vicar, in the south aisle. Unfortunately it entirely blocks the eastern window.

In the year 1855, Archdeacon Jones, the lay rector and patron of the living, restored the chancel, which at that time was in very bad repair, and contained pews used by some of the congregation. He re-used all the stone and built on the same lines as the old, with the exception of the east window and the roof; it is worthy of note that remains of three former east windows were found.

With regard to the aisles, it is probable that they were part of the original design, and the one on the north side, at any rate, was erected very shortly after the nave was finished; there is evidence that both aisles were used as chantries, or chapels, attached to the manors of Albury and Patmore respectively, each of which would have a priest, who would probably reside in the half-timbered building abutting on the churchyard. These side-chapels were provided with an altar, a piscina, and frequently a niche for an image of the patron saint. No trace of the altars remain, but in the south aisle (unhappily hidden by the organ) is a fine piscina, possibly with a credence above, but it is not practicable to see it clearly. The one in the north aisle is presumably bricked up, or hidden by the De la Lee altar tomb.

Judging by the windows, the south aisle was probably the last portion to be finished; they are singularly beautiful specimens of the Decorated period, and apparently of unique design in the county as regards their tracery. Several of them are in a somewhat time-worn condition, owing to the material, 'clunch,' not being capable of withstanding the action of the elements so well as other stone. These windows in the south aisle are supposed by some to be French, and it has been even thought that there are traces in the wall of the north aisle showing that the windows there were originally the same.

The windows in the north aisle, except those at the east and west ends (which are modern memorials to members of the Stacey family), are severely plain, but are admirably adapted to allow of a maximum amount of light. Judging by the shape of the heads, they belong to the Perpendicular period. It would appear that the two upright mullions in each window are of considerably more recent date than the window itself, and this suggests that the tracery having become decayed, new work was substituted. The earliest windows were probably narrow lancets similar to those in the chancel. It will be noticed that a portion of the moulding of the last window on the north side has been carefully cut away, doubtless to permit of a statue standing thereon. In the 1297 Visitation it is stated that "in a corner on the left side of the nave are statues to St. Mary Magdalene and Catherine," and we may identify this as the position.

Just at the junction of nave and chancel, but in the north aisle, are the remains of the rood stairs. The upper door which opened out upon the gallery is now blocked, but early in the last century it was said to be visible.

A somewhat unusual feature is the row of clerestory windows above the arcade on the south side of the nave. These were most probably inserted when it was found that the heavy tracery in the windows of the aisle prevented a due amount of light being obtained on that side. The windows appear somewhat odd to us, but our ancestors were not so punctilious about symmetry as we are.

The roof of the nave is a particularly fine piece of work, although modern, with the exception of the main cross-beams, which are possibly as old as the nave itself. They are of oak, and this wood, if prevented from becoming either too wet or too dry, will last for centuries, and then be found perfectly sound internally. The cross-beams in the aisles differ; those on the north are of earlier date, and are simply rough-hewn timber without ornament, while those on the south are moulded on the under face.

The screen is a very good example of the Perpendicular period, although not so rich as that at Much Hadham.

The bowl of the font, although apparently modern, is said to be the original, recut in comparatively recent times. The base, a circular shaft with four smaller columns at the corners, having been found to be decayed, was buried in the churchyard, and the present support substituted. The remains of the early base have been recently disinterred, and, at the suggestion of the Society, preserved in the north aisle of the church.

The pulpit is believed to be the only one in Hertfordshire that contains shields of arms inlaid upon its sides. Cussans suggests that the date of this is about 1670, and that it was the gift of one of the Leventhorpes, as their arms occur upon the dexter portion of all the shields.

A piscina with a credence shelf, which is in the south corner of the chancel, appears to have been much restored and renovated. The window recess adjoining has been continued to the floor in order to form sedilia. The seat of this is very low, indicating that the floor has been subsequently raised, and close to this is the priest's door.

The chancel windows are all of early shape, being very narrow, with pointed heads, but they appear to have been much restored and refaced. The blocked up, low-side, or 'confessional' window on the north side has already been referred to.

The interior of the south porch is worth examination. Notice should be taken of the fine stoup, which is partly cut away.

On the floor of the nave near the pulpit is a brass to a man and wife; the former is dressed in armour and has a dog at his feet, the latter has a crest (Tyrell) and four daughters underneath.

The inscription and the son's brass have disappeared. Cussans suggests that the crest resembles that of the Fanshawe family, and surmises the date to be about 1475. This brass badly requires relaying in a fresh matrix; the present one is much worn and the brass exposed to injury.

In the centre of the nave is a brass to John Scroggs, his wife, and son Edward, two shields of arms, and a skull with the words "Memento mori" under.

The inscription reads:—

"Here lyeth Ihon Scrogs, Gentleman
The sonne of Frances Scrogs Esquire
Levinge issve Edwarde Scrogs. He
Deceased the 18 of Avgvst 1592."

The other brasses are:—

One on the south side of the chancel to Thomas and Dorothy Leventhorpe, one son and five daughters, with a Latin verse and an inscription, which may be translated:—

"One Faith and one marriage joined both together.
Death in one grave joins two in one,
So because Love joined, Death separates them not.
Behold they lie in a grave as they laid on a couch,
One was of sincere faith, the other (is) a witness,
Both renowned, both pleasing, to men and to God."

"In (memory) of a man most renowned. Thomas Leventhorpe, of Aldbury, gentleman, twice (High Sheriff) of the County of Hertford. Died 8th day of June, Anno Domini 1588, his age 6 . . And also his most dear wife Dorothy, daughter and co-heiress of William Barlee, of Aldebury, gentleman. The which Dorothy died 4th January, 1574."

Two shields, and a benefaction, now on the chancel wall, were taken from the reverse side of the Barley altar tomb. The quaintly-worded charity states:—

"Anne Barley daughter of Henry Barley Esquier late wyfe of Phillip Gunter of Londō Skynner deceased hath gyven for ever to be receyved out of one half of ye lande of ye Manor of Bromley Lienge in the pīshe of Standen iii. pound a yere viz. lij. shillinge yerely by xij. pence every Sunday in bread to ye poore of this pīshe, & vi. shillinge to a preacher for a sermon at Easter xij. pence to ye vicar of this pīshe, & vi. pence a yere to either Churchwarden of this pīshe for their paynes to see ye distribuciō of ye said money yerely."

The distribution formerly took place on the altar tomb of the donor, the side of which is now fixed in the wall. Opposite to this on the north wall are the shields of arms removed therefrom—Leventhorpe impaling Barley, Gunter, and Lytton.

At the restoration, brasses were taken from their matrices and nailed to the chancel wall. It is said that the floor of the sacrarium was so damp and uneven that the brasses had to be removed, but if so, the matrices should also have been refixed with the brasses in them.

Unquestionably the most interesting monument is what is locally known as the "Adam and Eve" tomb, the knight and his lady being supposed to represent our first parents. It is usually agreed to be that of Sir Walter de la Lee and his wife, the former of whom died in 1396. Cussans, however, suggests from the costume that it is of earlier date, and it may therefore represent Sir John de la Lee, who married the daughter and heiress of Simon de Furneaux, who gave title to the adjoining village of Furneaux Pelham.

The knight is represented in complete armour, life-size, his head covered with a light helmet shaped like a skull-cap, with a movable front or tippet of mail. It is enriched with a band of jewels. A strawberry-leaf border ornaments both the upper and lower portions of the armour on his breast, while his sword-belt is studded with jewels, beneath which part of his chain coat of mail is visible. His legs are armoured, and on the joints and seams is a fillet of running embroidery.

The effigy of the lady, also life-size, represents her as habited in a simple loose gown reaching to her feet, the upper part of her body being covered with a close-fitting vest without sleeves. Her head is supported on a cushion, the hair being confined by a chaplet of jewels, while her feet rest upon a greyhound.

There are slight traces of colouring still remaining in the crevices. Undoubtedly the effigies were originally richly decorated in gold and colours. On the end and side which are visible (the other side, cut in half, is affixed to the wall of the tower) are deeply-cut quatrefoil panels with shields, and the top is finished with an embattled cresting.

This altar tomb was formerly nearer to the nave, though an old pew stood between it and the then narrow nave passage. It was found to be a cenotaph, and when the church was restored it was placed against the wall, more seating accommodation being greatly needed in the rearrangement of the church. It is to be regretted that this was found necessary, as it was seen more to advantage when standing out. It had been very much mutilated, and at the

EFFIGIES of SIR WALTER de la LEE and WIFE (Circa. 1396) IN ALBURY CHURCH.

restoration it was reduced in height by the removal of two steps, the side and end were cut off, and the tomb was moved bodily into the angle of the north aisle.

Sir John de la Lee died 43rd Edward III, leaving Walter and three daughters: Margery, m. to Robert Newport; Joan, m. to John Barley; Alice, m. to Sir Thomas Morewell.

Sir Walter served in the Great Parliament, and died without issue 19th Richard II, and his three sisters were co-heiresses, but the property descended to the Barleys, and the manor came to Dorothy Barley in the reign of Elizabeth, who was married to Thomas Leventhorpe, of Shingle Hall, Sawbridgeworth.

In 1689 Sir John Brograve held the whole of the manor, leaving it by will to Sir Thomas Brograve, his only brother and heir. The gallery in the church was erected for the Brograve family.

Another fine altar tomb to a member of the Barley family has almost entirely disappeared, part of it being used as the base of the present font, while one side, denuded of its brass shields of arms, is let into the south wall of the chancel.

The Parsonage Farm was held by the Treasurer of St. Paul's, the lay rector and patron of the living. When Albury Hall property was sold after the death of Mr. John Calvert, the Patmore Hall portion of the estate was bought by Mr. Parnell. Mrs. Parnell (widow) endowed the school with £1,000, a part of which sum she agreed to apportion towards building the larger of the two schools; this sum was added to by subscriptions. A large vault of the Calvert family is at the east end of the north aisle.

The music in church was formerly rendered by four or five men, to the accompaniment of a clarionet and violoncello, which were played by Abraham Whybird and Thomas Edwards. There was also an old custom of the women when they came to church curtseying when they entered.

There are three bells, two of which bear the same pre-Reformation inscription, "Hoc signum serva Xpi Maria Thoma,"[1] and the initials H. J. This was Henry Jordan, who died in 1468 or 1470. The third bell is inscribed "God save His Church,"[2] 1607, with the founder's mark of Robert Oldfield. There was a fourth bell, which fell down about the year 1800. It laid for a long time in the tower, from whence it disappeared: some say it was stolen and sold for old

[1] This may be translated "St. Mary, St. Thomas, protect this signal of Christ."

[2] It doubtless refers to the troublous times the Church was then passing through.

metal, others that it was hidden in the pond called "The Povah,"[1] or the Rush pond.

According to North's "Church Bells of Hertfordshire," the treble bell used to be rung at 10 a.m. on Sundays, and was called the Sermon Bell. The Easter peal was rung at 5 or 6 a.m., and an early peal on Whit Sunday. The bells are said to have been rung at midday on Sundays, and the treble was rung at 2 p.m. on the same day. The Passing Bell was formerly rung three strokes for a man and two for a woman. For children no 'tellers' at all were used. The 'Vestry' Bell, the survival of the ancient 'Folk Moot,' or peoples' assembly bell, has been discontinued. The Gleaning Bell was rung at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. in harvest time until quite recently, and it is hoped, if practicable, to revive this ancient custom.

An old iron bound chest used to be kept in the tower, but at the time of the Society's visit it was lost to sight in a tool shed in the churchyard: it has since been replaced in the church.

For many years that portion of the churchyard just under the south aisle had not been used on account of its being full of burials.

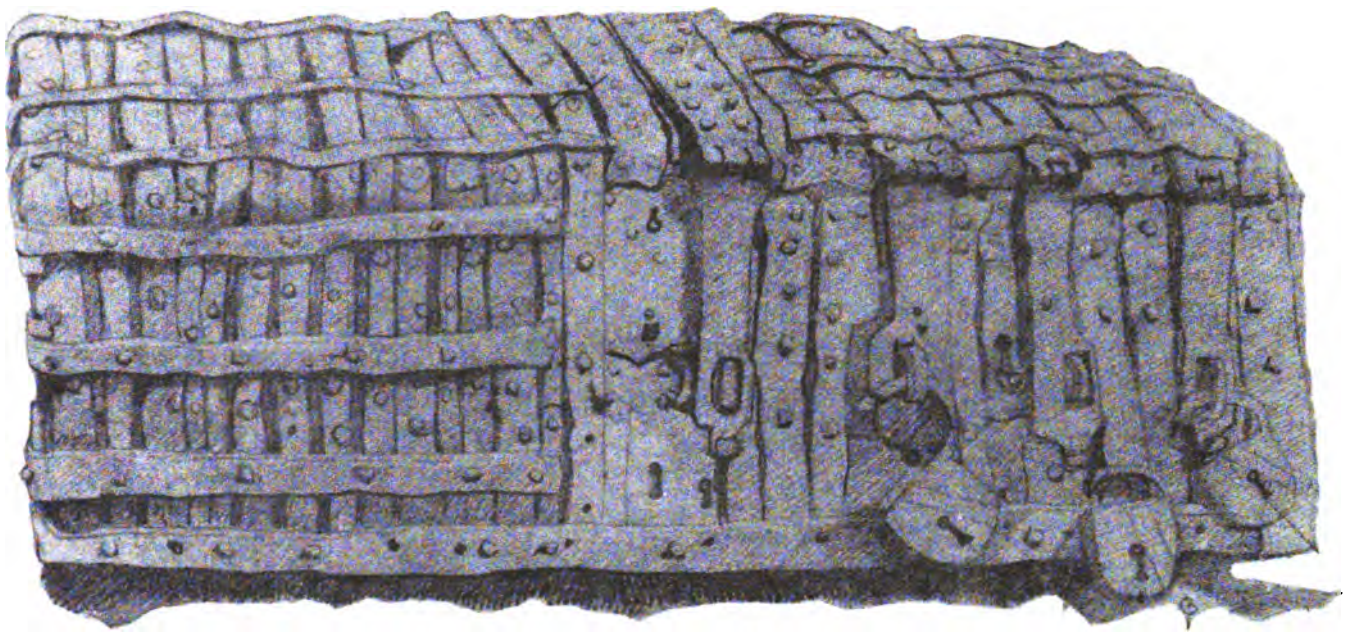
On the north side of the church are several of the older type of tombstones with death's heads, cherubim, and other emblematical eighteenth century figures thereon.

An unusual feature is the half-timbered building abutting into the churchyard. It is rather disappointing to find that this is not church property, being part of the Albury Hall estate, but it may have become alienated at some period. It is difficult to estimate the age of this building, but much of it is probably as early as the fifteenth century. Its transformation into cottages (and it seems to have been used as such for quite a hundred years, if not considerably longer) has effectually hidden or destroyed the old internal arrangements, but that it was originally either the Guild House or the Church House, and as such, the abode of the Chantry priests who administered in the manorial chapels, there can be little doubt.

Before the advent of the Rev. Mr. Bayliff the parish had been left very much to itself, and nothing could really be more forlorn than its condition. There was no school: the church was in a deplorable state of repair: the Albury Hall estate was for sale, and it was absolutely necessary to build a Vicarage house.

For some time there had been no resident Vicar or Curate, and

[1] Called in the parish book "Pobore," which it is suggested is the French "Pourboire." There is a local tradition that it is as deep as the church tower is high.



CHEST IN ALBURY CHURCH

(From a Sketch by Miss E. Bateson.)

the Rev. Mr. Gall used to come and take duty occasionally on Sundays. At one time, but further back, and during Mr. Cowling's absences, it was said that the people never knew whether there would be service or not, and the non-resident curate would ride over from Stortford, leap his horse over the churchyard fence, and if he found only two or three people waiting, would give them a shilling to go to the public-house instead of holding a service.

Albury was in the Diocese of Rochester, and Murray was the Bishop at the time. In December, 1845, the Rev. Mr. Cowling, Vicar of Albury, died, and in February, 1846, his successor, the Rev. Thos. T. Lane Bayliff, was presented to the living by the Venerable Archdeacon Jones, Treasurer of St. Paul's, the population at that time being 720.

The parish was in a very wild and lawless condition when Mr. Bayliff came, and the people were very poor. Nevertheless, a clothing club was soon started, the schools were built, night schools and classes were held, many entertainments given, and excursions planned, the music in the church improved, and missionary meetings held, etc., etc.

The first school was built in 1849 by subscription, the Vicar making a gift of land for the formation of the playground, and at the same time an addition to the churchyard. The site for the new Vicarage had been changed to a field called Parker's Close. The old Vicarage, which stood on the site of the present school, was in a most dilapidated condition, and it was said that the last resident curate (Mr. Brett) hardly dare go to bed on a windy night.

In conclusion, it seems desirable to urge upon the authorities the advisability of bringing down from the floor of the belfry the three tablets containing the list of the charities and the Royal Arms. They are in excellent preservation, and after cleaning, might be affixed to the walls of the tower.

W. B. Gerish.

PATMORE HALL, ALBURY.

When Domesday Book was compiled, the Manor of Patmore, or Patmere,[1] was held by one Baldwin, one of the Conqueror's knights, under the Bishop of London. It was held of his Castle of Stortford by homage fealty, and the yearly rent of five shillings for castle guard, to be paid every year at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. This payment to the Lord of the Castle Manor is, it is understood, still made.

The assessable area of the manor was rather more than half that of Albury. About a century after the Conquest, the Bishop of London sold it, and the later possessors were the Baards, de la Lees, Barleys, and Scroggs.

It is thought that near the site of the present farmhouse stood one of a chain of castles, or strongly fortified buildings, which guarded the communications east and west of the county, and it is to be hoped that at some future date a list of these will be compiled, which will serve to show how, in days before telegraphy was known, it was possible to communicate from one side of the county to another in a very short space of time by means of signals and beacons. The site of this castellated manor house was an extremely advantageous one, and evidently chosen with great care, being situated upon high ground, and, in addition, protected by a double moat. Mr. R. T. Andrews, in his valuable series of articles upon Hertfordshire moats, says of those here:—

"Large portions of the double moat have disappeared, so that there are only two large rectangular ponds (one of these is one hundred feet square, and the other smaller) lying on the south side of the house, and a small one in the field to the east. These three, when taken in connection with the short but wide moat at the north end of the same field, and the long, narrow, zigzag stream from it, most likely formed the original outer moat, whilst the angular sinking in the lawn, which has one of its arms one hundred and seventy feet long, and the other one hundred and twenty feet, but is now dry, are the remains of the inner one. The entire space enclosed was six hundred and thirty feet by two hundred and thirty feet, or an area of upwards of three acres. The high ground on the east would supply these moats with an abundance of water, and make this a very strong position."

[1] 'Patemore' is the correct early spelling. 'Pate' represents the Anglo-Saxon 'Pattan,' the genitive of 'Patta,' a personal name. 'More' is a moor or heath, hence 'Patta's heath,' and this heath still remains unenclosed. Both Patmore and Patten are surnames surviving in the immediate neighbourhood.

The owner informs us that, owing to the extensive and extremely massive nature of the foundations existing beneath the surface in the gardens, he has had considerable difficulty in cultivating them properly. It is frequently found that when a building of this kind was taken down, the foundations were left untouched; hence it is quite possible that a fairly accurate plan of the ancient fortified manor house or castle might be formed from these remains, although we could not reasonably expect the owner to destroy his gardens for the purpose.

Cussans quotes an interesting petition to Parliament, made in the 15th year of Edward II (1321–2), in which certain inhabitants of Albury, Farnham, Patmere, and Braughing complain of the cruel extortion and tyranny of Sir John de Patemere. We learn from this, that the knight (who might have been a fit companion for Sir Richard d'Anestie, of Anstey Castle) was in the habit of seizing any of the inhabitants he could lay hold of, detaining them in his private prison (probably a dungeon like that said to exist at Anstey, level with the bottom of the moat) until they paid an enormous fine, varying from forty to a hundred shillings, which might be reckoned as fully equal to pounds of our money. They dare not plead or make suit in the courts against him, such was the terror he inspired; and at the time the petition was presented, the knight had in his possession cows, oxen, and chattels, to the value of eleven pounds, which he had forcibly taken from the petitioners.

This petition seemed to be of sufficient interest to print, so it has been copied and translated from the Norman-French, and reads as follows :—

"May it please our Lord the King in Council, for God and for charity, to order some suitable remedy for certain poor inhabitants of the towns of Albury, Farnham, Patemere, and Braughing, in the County of Hertford, who do not dare to complain themselves of Sir John de Patemere, Knight, who has taken and imprisoned, and detained in prison, some three days, others four, and more, at his own will, for no cause, has required of some the ransom of 100 shillings, some of 40 shillings, and has taken on his own authority their cows, their oxen, and their other goods, to the amount of £11, and has taken them off, and detained, and still detains them, to their impoverishment and destruction, for which they pray for God's sake, help and remedy."

Answer. "That he (the King) acknowledged the oppressions, and would settle the matter according to law."

We are not informed what was the result, and we can only hope that Sir John was induced to amend his ways, set the prisoners at liberty, and disgorge his ill-gotten goods.

A somewhat curious natural phenomenon took place here in 1755, and an account of it was read to the Royal Society by the Rev. Thomas Rutherford, Rector of Barley, who was a somewhat distinguished scientist in his day. He says:—

"I have lately had an opportunity of making some enquiries about an unusual motion of the water in a pond at Patmer Hall, which is a farm in the parish of Albury, and County of Hertford. Mr. Thomas Mott, who is the occupier of the farm, tells me that there are two ponds in his yard, which are parted from one another only by a causey which is just wide enough to allow of a convenient passage for a waggon and a driver; the causey runs from north to south, so that one of the ponds is to the west and the other is to the east of it. At the western end of the former, which is the head of it, are two drains, one higher than the other to carry off the waste water; and on each side, at the other end, close to the causeway, is a mouth or opening where his cattle go to drink. The pond itself is about eight roods over and twelve roods long. The other pond is of the same size, except that there is a dove-house in the middle of it, standing upon a small island. On the first day of November last (1755), between ten and eleven in the forenoon, his servants, who were then close to these ponds, heard a rumbling noise, like the wind, and took notice that three ducks, which were then in the western pond, immediately flew out of it into the other, as if they were affrighted. At the same instant the water in the western pond arose at the head of it, so as to run out of the lower drain, which was ten or twelve inches above the level. It continued to move backwards and forwards for some time, but he observed that it did not swell any more at the head, but only rose and fell by turns at the two mouths, so that the motion was then from north to south. When it arose at either of the mouths, it flowed about six feet beyond what was then the water mark. The other pond during the whole time was as calm and still as he ever saw it."

There can be little doubt that this was caused by a slight earthquake, as the learned rector specifies other places where similar phenomena occurred at the same time.

Mr. Debenham's foreman possesses a small collection of coins found upon the farm; this consists very largely of Georgian halfpennies, more or less worn, and some four or five Roman coins.

It is stated that in a field called Stock's Field, just near the side of Shaw Wood, on the way to Farnham, the plough constantly turns up pieces of brick, tile, and stone, portions of which have mortar of a very hard nature attached to them. Evidently some buildings stood upon the site, but what they were, in the absence of any record or attempt at excavation, it is not possible to determine.

In another field, called Long Field, not far from Hixham Hall, during the process of draining, a considerable number of skeletons were met with. Owing to the damp nature of the soil the bones were in an advanced stage of decay, but from the position in which they were found, it would seem to indicate that regular interments

had taken place from time to time. One small Roman coin was found in this field.

A former tenant of Patmore Hall has in his possession a large number of coins which were discovered in Stock's Field before mentioned. It appears that this field had long had the reputation of containing "hidden treasure," and some forty years ago an old man obtained permission to dig anywhere "two feet deep." He did so, and found a great number of coins, a quantity of which were purchased by a Mr. Scales. No information, however, is forthcoming respecting their date.

An "old history" is given as the authority for a statement that there was once a church here, but up to the present time it has not been possible to verify the reference. Neither Chauncy or Salmon mention it.

The writer desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mr. Debenham for his assistance in compiling these notes. A search at the Record Office would perhaps throw more light upon the history of the manor, and the buildings on the site; the writer only regrets that he has not sufficient leisure to devote to the task.

W. B. Gerish.

BUCKLAND CHURCH.

We are told by Professor Skeat that the meaning of the name 'Buckland' is common land granted by 'boc' or charter, to a private owner, in contradistinction to 'Folk-land,' or land held by the community.

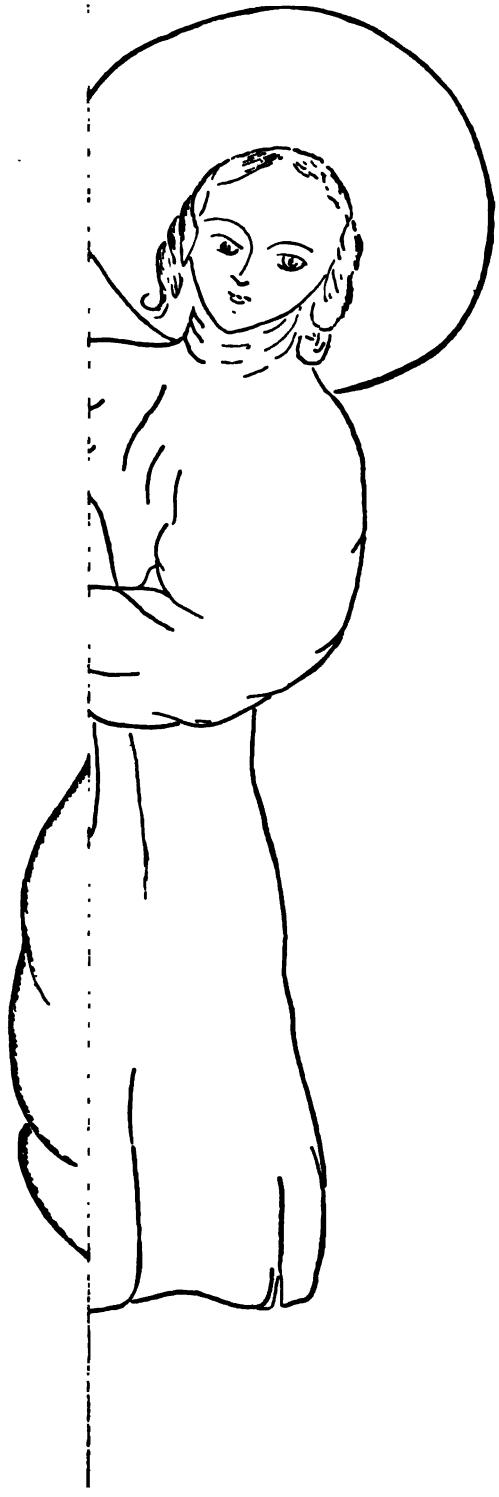
The Bury, or Manor-house, occupied by Nicholas de Bocland and his successors, has long ceased to exist. The site of it may have been the moated enclosure called Bull's Close, situated on the west side of the main road to Royston.

Buckland is one of the few places in Hertfordshire specified in the Domesday survey as possessing a priest, thus necessarily implying the existence of a church here. Of this Saxon or Norman structure we have no visible trace. The present building is, in the main, Early English, and it is mentioned as being "one of Rickman's dated churches," doubtless by reason of a Latin inscription, which existed up to about fifty years ago, in the easternmost window on the north side of the nave, which may be rendered:—

"Nicholas de Buckland, who built this church with the chapel of the Blessed Mary, Anno Domini 1348."

The upper part of this window, and the next, still contain some fragments of ancient glass, but whether we may assume the record to be coeval, or construe it literally, are points open to question. Doubtless Nicholas renovated the fabric, and built himself a chapel, which is now part of the south aisle. This chapel was only twelve feet long. In the Perpendicular period, the western end was taken down, and the south wall continued westwards, forming the present aisle.

The low-side window (of which a fairly large number exist in the neighbourhood) appears to be contemporaneous with the church. It was discovered blocked up when some repairs were being executed about fifty years ago. When opened out, the lead clips attached to the iron bars were found, indicating that it was originally glazed, although not made to open. The iron hooks which once carried the shutter still remain. Like others of this character, it was clearly a confessional window, but, as at



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Braughing, it has been filled with stained glass representing the "cleansing of the lepers." This is regrettable, as it perpetuates the erroneous theory of the lepers using the window to witness Mass. On the splays of this window were figures of the Virgin and Child, and a female figure in the attitude of prayer, all executed in carmine. These were unhappily destroyed, but sketches remain in the Rector's possession, from which the accompanying illustrations were made.

The Lady Chapel can still be clearly traced by the piscina at the south-eastern corner of the aisle, and by part of the arcade and string-course remaining. The marble altar slab is said to be in existence under the floor.

During some repairs, an interesting fresco was discovered above the string-course, consisting of a shaft some seven feet high terminating in the outline of a rose, with the symbols I.H.S. At the base of the shaft were sprays of leaves and flowers, and a chain with long links ran up the angle of the aisle, and returning at a right angle over the shaft lost itself in the jamb of the present window. Over the shaft were links severed and pendent.

A copy of the Lord's Prayer in old English characters, surrounded by a design of panelling in carmine, was discovered about the same time. In spite of the Rector's efforts, all the coloured designs were scraped off, and obliterated by order of the Churchwardens, who apparently possessed little sympathy with these relics of the pre-Reformation period. It has indeed been suggested that Cussans was misinformed, and that the frescoes "faded away," but if this were so, we should, as in other cases, find at least some traces of them at this date (1904).

In the eastern pier of the arcade there still exist the cap and base of an earlier pillar. In this pier are square recesses north and south, which originally formed an opening through it, but this opening was blocked in the centre to give additional support for the greater weight of the new roof of the nave.

A rude dial on the external jamb of the priest's door, with lines radiating from a central peg or nail as a gnomon, may have served as an anchoret's guide for the canonical hours from matins to compline. Canon Rock, in his work "Church of our Fathers," quoted by Mr. Cussans, says "that it was not unusual for an anchoret priest to reside day and night in the church," but if this were indeed so, it is rather strange that the majority of the anchorages still remaining are to be found on the exterior of the chancel. We have traces of one at the old church of St. Leonard, Bengeo. It is to be understood that the strictness of the "Ancren

Riwle" must not be interpreted too literally, and the rigid confinement or immurement so frequently suggested, was improbable for sanitary and other reasons.

The rood stairs with doorways on the south side still exist, and the corbels which carried the rood-loft remain *in situ* on either side of the nave. There are two lower corbels on the north side, but what purpose they served it is difficult to surmise.

The north door is (as usual) built up. When the sexes ceased to be divided, there was no longer any necessity for this door, and, as it tended to make the church cold, it may for this reason have been closed, although from the frequency with which this occurs, it seems possible that some order was issued to this effect. In this case, however, the door was not permanently blocked until about thirty years ago. There are remains of a holy-water stoup in the doorway on the outside, a rather unusual feature on this side of the church.

The south door is of a good width, and is probably that originally fixed when the aisle was built. There is a stoup at the entrance. The porch seems to have been partially rebuilt; the windows, the arch at the entrance, and the niche which once held the statue of St. Andrew, appear to be original.

The font is a feature of considerable interest; its age is purely conjectural. True, the County Directory makes the rather simple remark, that, "if genuine it is of a period anterior to the Conquest." Why a fraud should be suspected in this connection one is at a loss to understand. The font is certainly a rudely-cut mass of Barnack stone, but it is evident, that at no very remote period, it has been vandalistically shorn of all its carving, by an untrained hand. What symbols it bore we cannot even conjecture, although it has been suggested that it possessed heads similar to those at Ardeley. There is, however, no resemblance between the two fonts in either shape or size; the last-named clearly belonging to the Perpendicular period, while this is either Norman or Saxon; judging by its massive form.

There are five brasses which are described in detail in Mr. W. F. Andrews' "Memorial Brasses in Hertfordshire Churches." A somewhat remarkable feature of these, is, that in the case of four of them, the pre-Reformation prayer for mercy has escaped obliteration. The reformers must have overlooked these memorials, although it is difficult to imagine how they escaped their zealous, prying eyes.

The brasses are thus described:—

BUCKLAND CHURCH FONT.

(From a photograph by E. E. SQUIRES).

I. Inscription—

"Here resteth the body of
Joane Bland late the wife
of Esdras Bland Rector of
this place. She departed
this life the Thirtieth
Day of Avgvst A° Dm̄ 1648.
Blessed are the dead } Revel. { 14
Which die in the Lord } { 13."

Cussans says that Esdras Bland was rector, and died in 1667, and was also rector of Hunsdon, Herts, from 1586 to 1593, when he resigned the living. He left £2 annually to the poor of Buckland.

II. Figure of a man in civil costume having a rosary and gypcière suspended from his waist, with inscription under, and brass of six sons and indent of brass of four daughters—

"Orate p. aīa Johīs Gyll qui obiit xxiv die Januarii A° dm̄ MCCCCLXXXXIX cuj' aīe p̄piciet' deus. Amen."

This John Gill seems to have been a noted person at Buckland, and made various bequests to the parish, and the name appears often at the adjoining parish of Wyddial.

III. Inscription only—

"Orate p̄. aīa Johannæ Gyll que obiit——die——A dm̄ Milimo——cuj' aīe p̄piciet' de' amen."

Probably the widow of the above John Gill.

IV. Figure of a priest in robes, wearing a cope, and holding a chalice and wafer (stated by Haines to be the only known instance). Inscription under—

"Hic jacet dns Willms Langley quōdm Rector istius Ecclesiæ qui obiit quarto decimo die mēs Aprilis A° dm̄ MCCCCLXXVIII. Cuius aīe ppciet' de' amē."

Over the head was a circular scroll, of which only a small portion remains. William Langley was appointed rector in 1445.

V. Figure of a female, and inscription under—

"Hic jacet Alicia quondam uxor Johīs Boteler nuper Vicecomitis londoñ que obiit xxi die mens Januarii Anno dni Millō CCCCLJ. Cuius aīe p̄piciet' de' amē."

The Botelers were a family living at Woodhall, near Watton, and several brasses are found belonging to them in the church of that village. A Dame Alice Boteler was governess to the infant child Henry VI, son of Henry V, for some years from 1422.

Cussans mentions all of the above brasses; Chauncy notices Nos. I, II, III, and IV; and Haines gives Nos. II, IV, and V only.

There is a quaint little mural monument to the memory of Susan Clerke, who died in 1634. The inscription, in prose, after duly recounting her many virtues, says :—

> " A woman and a good one, and as shee
> Grewe up in yeares increased in charetie.
> The Sabboth she observ'd, a marke of grace
> From hence removed unto a better place
> Uppon that sacred daye, a daye of rest,
> And now remaines in Heaven amonge ye blest."

On the monument to John Clerke, who died in 1772, are the following lines :—

> " He lov'd his friend, nor empty sent the poor
> Or stranger from his hospitable door,
> For all things mortals call, or good or right,
> He thought not only duty, but delight.
> If reader, you expect a heavenly birth,
> In joys above, or comfort here on earth,
> Go thou and do likewise."

The Rev. J. H. Mitchell succeeded to the living in 1803. His only son died in 1819, and there is a beautiful medallion portrait in low relief, by Chantrey, to his memory. At his coming, both Church and Rectory were in a terrible state of dilapidation; the previous Rector had been non-resident, and rarely visited the parish, the services being conducted by a curate. Mr. Mitchell built the present Rectory, and left behind him a manuscript volume giving some interesting particulars concerning the parish and church property a century ago. By the courtesy of the present Rector copious extracts from this valuable record have been taken.

In the Rectory grounds are several portions of window-heads, part of a gable cross, and a large grotesque head, probably a gargoyle from the tower. It is said that they were purchased at the sale of the materials of some church in the neighbourhood that was either burnt or pulled down some time in the forties, but I am inclined to think that they are portions of the fabric of Buckland Church.

W. B. Gerish.

BIOGRAPHY OF SIR EDWARD DENNY,

Knight Banneret, of Bishop's Stortford, Herts; Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Queen Elizabeth, Governor of Kerry and Desmond, sometime Commander under Admiral Lord Thomas Howard. 1547–1599.

Sir Edward Denny was the fifth, but eventually the second surviving son of the Right Hon. Sir Anthony Denny (Chief Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, Privy Councillor and Executor to Henry VIII, Guardian to Edward VI) and Joan, his wife, daughter of Sir Philip Champernowne, of Modbury, Devon. He was born, probably at his father's seat at Cheshunt, in 1547, if his age be correctly given in the epitaph upon his tomb at Waltham. It may well be conjectured that Sir Anthony named his son after his royal ward, Edward VI, who, in 1547, succeeded to the throne. Both his father and mother died while he was still a child, and he was left, apparently, under the guardianship of John Tamworth, his mother's executor. In Tamworth's accounts, which are amongst the Lansdowne Charters, under the head "Payments and Allowances," the following occurs:—

"Item for the fyndinge of Edward Denny accordinge to his father's will for one year ending 1559, for apparell and other charges at London happereth by ij billes of the same X, XVIII, X [£10 18*s.* 10*d.* ?] for his meate and drinke at VI the weke."

Sir Anthony Denny, in his will, left his son Edward certain lands in Hertfordshire.

It was Edward Denny's lot to live in what has been called the "Golden, or Heroic Age" of English history, and to be able to reckon perhaps most of those who contributed to make it so amongst his kinsmen or his friends. In starting life he had powerful influences to favour him. Sir Francis Walsingham was his first cousin, being son of Sir Anthony Denny's sister Joice; Lord Burghley was the friend and neighbour of his family, and afterwards related by marriage; and doubtless the Queen herself was not unmindful of the faithful service of the young courtier's father to her father Henry.[1]

[1] Sir Anthony was a friend of Elizabeth's early days, when she resided at different periods at his house at Cheshunt.

Denny's first public appointment seems to have been as "Receiver General of the counties of Southampton, Wilts, and Gloucester," and there is, amongst the Lansdowne MSS., an account rendered by him in that capacity, and endorsed by Lord Burghley. Early in 1573 the Earl of Essex formed the project of conducting an expedition to Ireland to reduce the turbulent district of Clannaboy, in Ulster, and to plant it with English settlers. The Lords Dacre and Rich, Sir Henry Knollys, and several other Englishmen of distinction, offered to risk their lives and fortunes in the undertaking, from which the most advantageous results were anticipated., Edward Denny received from the Queen, who doubtless thought to further his best interests, directions to proceed to Ireland with Essex. But the Earl met with delays and impediments at every step, promoted chiefly by his secret enemies. Denny, who had been obliged to sell his stock and part of his revenue "to furnish himself, which cost him more than £400," had to remain in London, "at great expense, from the Coronation day" (15th January) until the following Summer, when Essex was at length enabled to proceed to Ireland, where he landed at Carrickfergus. The ill-success of the expedition, and the disappointment of all the high hopes of Essex, followed by his death in 1576, are well-known matters of history.

In 1578 Edward Denny sailed with Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who had then first obtained from the Queen a charter for a voyage of discovery, and for planting a colony in America. Walter Raleigh also accompanied the expedition, which proved unsuccessful. Raleigh and his step-brother, Gilbert, were Denny's first cousins, being sons of his mother's sister Catherine. Denny seems to have done some privateering on his own account about this time, for we find that in 1577 he captured a Spanish ship, and on 5th September of that year he brought two prizes, a Frenchman and a Spaniard, to the Isle of Wight, and in 1578 took a Flemish ship, the "Tennen," off Portland Road. In 1580, we read of an "honourable challenge" to a tournament before Queen Elizabeth, in which Philip, Earl of Arundel, with Sir William Drurie as his companion-at-arms, held the field as challenger against all comers. This challenge was answered by a "noble companie," headed by Edward Vere, the poetic Earl of Oxford, and including, amongst others, Philip Sidney, Fulke Greville, *Edward Denny*, and George Goring. This year, acting, it would appear, upon the direct suggestion of the Queen herself, Denny proceeded to Ireland, where the rebellion of the Earl of Desmond, and other minor insurrections, were in progress.

On July 13th, 1580, the sum of £100 was paid him, and the like amount to his cousin, Walter Raleigh, on account of the charge of two hundred soldiers which they were employed to conduct from London to Ireland.[1]

On August 12th, 1580, Arthur, Lord Grey de Wilton, arrived in Ireland as Lord-Deputy in succession to Sir William Pelham. Lord Grey was a friend of Denny's, and was also connected with him by marriage. Grey's sister was wife of Denny's elder brother, Henry, by whom she was mother of Sir Edward Denny, Lord Denny de Waltham, and Earl of Norwich, of Catherine Denny, Lady Fleetwood (mother of Dr. James Fleetwood, Bishop of Worcester, and grandmother of Dr. William Fleetwood, Bishop of St. Asaph and Ely, and of Colonel George Fleetwood, one of Cromwell's peers, and one of the judges of Charles I), and of Anne Denny, mother of George Goring, Earl of Norwich, the father of the gallant General Lord Goring.

Sir Henry Sidney, K.G., who had been four times Lord Justice, and thrice Lord Deputy of Ireland, wrote about this time to Lord Grey, counselling him how to proceed in his government. Towards the end of his letter occurs the following passage:—

"I nowe desire you to comend me to the newcomes of Ireland . . . . [amongst others] to my governer and deere frend Mr. Edward Denny, unto which I wishe from my harte all good and happynes."

Sir Henry's more famous son, Sir Philip Sidney, was, like his father, a "dear friend" of Denny's. Shortly after his arrival, Denny writes to his cousin Walsingham, expressing much discontent with service in Ireland. The letter must have been written about the time when his patron, Lord Grey, had experienced a severe defeat from the O'Byrnes of Wicklow,[2] owing to his having followed them too far into the woods and glens of their fastnesses. The following is a passage from it:—

"Your honour may well remember her Majesties discontent for my charge of [only] one hundred. . . . I find alreadie my Irland journey will rather decaie me quite, than amend me in anything, and for this kind of service it is so graceless, so devoid of reputation—in respect of the service never seen; but it happens still in boggs, glinnes and woods, as in my opinion it might better fit mastives than brave gentlemen that desier to win honour."

And he adds that he will but stay in Ireland for the love he bears to Lord Grey. The date is September 8th, 1580.

Archæologia, vol. xxxiv, p. 140.

[2] In which Sir Peter Carew (who was first cousin to Denny's mother) lost his life, and his brother, the celebrated Sir George, afterwards Earl of Totnes, narrowly escaped the same fate.

In July, 1579, a number of Italian desperadoes, with some Spaniards, arrived in Kerry to assist the Irish in their rebellion. These men were simply filibusters, with no authority or commission from any King or State. They landed at Smerwick Bay, near Dingle, and entrenched themselves there in an old fortification, which was named "Fort del Ore." They were subsequently reinforced, in September, 1580, by a large body of Spaniards. In the end of the latter year an expedition, commanded by the Lord Deputy in person, marched against the invaders. There were with Lord Grey, amongst others, Walter Raleigh, Edmund Spenser, Fulke Greville, *Edward Denny*, John Cheke (son to Sir John Cheke, the distinguished scholar, tutor to Edward VI), and John Zouche (a cousin of Denny's). Our information regarding the siege and capture of Fort del Ore is taken from Lord Grey's despatch to the Queen "from the camp at Smerwick, November 12th, 1580,"[1] and from a letter[2] dated from the same place, November 11th, from Sir Richard Bingham, then Vice-Admiral of Munster, to Mr. Ralph Lane. On November 5th Admiral Sir William Winter arrived with his fleet[3] before Smerwick, and on the 7th Lord Grey pitched his camp near the fort and commenced to throw up earthworks for the siege. On the afternoon of that day the besieged made a sally, but were repulsed, according to Hooker,[4] by "*Captaine Denie*, who had but a dozen shott." On the night of the 8th the besieged (says Lord Grey) "made four sallies to have beaten our labourers from work, and gave us their volleys very gallantlie, but were as gallantlye set in again by *Ned Denny* and his companye, who had this night the watch." On the evening of the 9th the garrison made an unconditional surrender

"to my Lord's wille, to have mercie or not mercie as he should think good. . . . In the morninge which was thursday and the tenth . . . order was taken that the Colonel, with the Captains and chief officers, should come forthe and deliver up the ensigne with order and ceremony thereto belonging; this done, the band which had the ward of that daie, which was *Mr. Denny's*, then entered; but in the meantime, were entered a number of mariners[5] upon the parte next to the sea, which, with the soldiers aforesaid having possessed the place, fell to revellinge, and spoiling, and withall to killinge, in which they never ceased while there lived one." (Bingham.)

[1] MS. Roll's House.

[2] Cott. MSS., Titus, A. xii, pp. 313–317.

[3] Which included the "Revenge," immortalised by Tennyson.

[4] "Supplement to Hollinshed."

[5] Men familiar with the fate of any English who might "fall into the hand of Spain . . . . the thumbscrew and the stake, for the glory of the Lord."

Upon Edward Denny was conferred the honour of being the bearer of the Lord Deputy's dispatch (quoted above), announcing the capture of the Fort to the Queen. The close of Lord Grey's letter is as follows:—

"Other particularities about this service to the bearer hereof [Denny] I refer, whose forwardness I could of right commend to your Highness, but I fear you will take it of partialitie than of desert; but sure, Madam, affection shall never drawe me to deliver unto you, in any's behalf, what their worth shall not bear. I humbly, therefore, beseech your Highness to afford him your gracious countenance and favour, for in this action he hath deserved, and will, I doubt not, much more deserve."

In a letter of Sir Richard Bingham's to Walsingham, of the same date as the foregoing, giving some details of the siege, he says: "Of captains that shewed themselves most valiant and painful I can truly commend unto your Honor these, Mr. Zouch, *Mr. Denny*, Captain Piers, Captain Anxell."

Edward Denny seems to have been frequently employed by the Queen as her private messenger. For instance, Lord Grey, writing to Lord Burghley, January 19th, 1581, says that he understands that Burghley "received a sharp message by Ned Dennye from Her Majesty for default of the victuals" (for the army in Ireland). And again, writing to Walsingham on July 5th following, Grey speaks of the message he "received by Ned Denny from Her Majesty's self." In a letter to Walsingham, dated "Dublin, July 4th, 1581," Denny states that he is posted at Caster Cevin with 200 men, and mentions his cousin Zouche's success against Desmond, and his own "service under the Lord Deputy against the home rebel."

In two letters of Denny's written this year (1581) we find evidence of his close friendship for that most illustrious of Englishmen, Philip Sidney. Writing from Dublin, July 16th, he thus commends Sidney to his cousin Walsingham (whose only daughter Sidney two years afterwards married): "Above all things, Sir, geve me leve to remember you to love Mr. Sidne, for I know at your hands he is best worthy love." And writing again shortly afterwards from Powerscourt he tells Walsingham of "Mr. Sidney, the most worthy young man in the world."

In the Autumn of 1581 Denny was placed in command of an expedition against the rebellious O'Tooles, who held the mountains near Dublin. Towards the end of the year he returned victorious, bringing with him the head of the chieftain, Garret O'Toole. In the following January he received the formal thanks of the Queen and Council for his services.

In August, 1582, Edward Denny was at Court, and in 1583, or the beginning of the year following, he was married to Margaret, eldest daughter of Pierce Edgcumbe, of Mount Edgcumbe, in Cornwall (by Margaret Luttrell, his wife, whose mother was second cousin to Queen Catherine Howard and to Queen Anne Boleyn); who had been for five years a Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth. There is still in existence a pair of beautifully embroidered velvet mittens given by the Queen, from off her own hands, as a token of regard to her "own favourite Maid of Honour" and kinswoman, Margaret Edgcumbe. It is interesting to notice that Edward Denny's wife was, like himself, related to Sir Walter Raleigh, her great-grandfather, Sir Pierce Edgcumbe, K.B., having been brother to Raleigh's paternal grandmother. After the time of his marriage we have no information as to Denny's movements for several years. We next hear of him through a letter of his own written to Lord Burghley from Dublin, on February 17th, 1587. In it he says:

"I rely and believe only on your Lordship for my chief good, and . . . I have found your favour ever prest [ready] and acknowledge myself . . . bound and benefited by your credit and goodness to me. My Lord Deputy [Sir John Perrot] hath bestowed Sir William Stanley's band on me, being remembered and entreated by my Lord Chancellor and all the Council."

On the 8th March following Thomas Norreys, the President of Munster, writes from Cork to Burghley: "I have received your honours letter concerning Mr. Denny, to whom I have delivered the possession of Trele [Tralee], as your Honour assigned me." The "great Castle of Tralee" had been for nearly four hundred years the chief seat of the Earls of Desmond. The castle and town, with six thousand acres of the rich land surrounding, beside bogs and commons, with free pasturage on the mountain ranges of Slieve Mish and Slieve Logher, were granted to Denny at £100 per annum Crown rent, with the condition that, as an "undertaker in the plantation of Munster," he should settle upon the lands a certain number of English families. About the same time Sir Walter Raleigh, Edmund Spenser, Sir William Herbert, and others received grants of lands in Munster upon the same conditions. Edward Denny seems to have set about the work of "planting" with vigour, for Sir Nicholas White, the Master of the Rolls, writes to Burghley from Dublin, September 29th, 1587, that of all the enterprisers of Munster, Denny "hath put his plough deepest in the ground, as I cannot but recommend him to your favour, having for your Lordship's sake given him my best furtherance here." The Lord Deputy, Sir John Perrot, writes to much the same effect to the Queen, in a letter sent by Denny, whom he

despatched in the end of September, 1587, to bring news to the English Privy Council concerning the movements of Sir Francis Drake against Cadiz, and the preparation of the Spanish Armada. Perrot, writing shortly afterwards to the Council, expresses his regret at Captain Denny's absence, lest a Spanish invasion should happen. Again on January 17th, 1588, he writes to the Queen: "I have received by Mr. Denny your most gracious letters signifying your Highnesses good and princely acceptance of the memorials I sent by him."

In this year (1588), Edward Denny was created a Knight Banneret, "the highest title of chivalrous honour," by Sir William Fitzwilliam, who was appointed Lord Deputy on 30th June. "He was dubbed," says Fuller, "a Knight-banneret upon the field of battle, and by God's favour, Queen Elizabeth's bounty, and his own valour, he achieved a fair estate in the county of Kerry, to this day enjoyed by his descendants."[1] This Summer was written the first of a long series of letters (which are amongst the State papers) from Sir William Herbert to Walsingham, complaining of his Kerry neighbours, amongst others of Sir Edward Denny. Sir William appears to have been unable to refrain from interfering with Sir Edward's tenants, officers, and chaplain. A tract, apparently by Sir William, shows incidentally that in this Spring or Summer Sir Edward's band was stationed at Youghal.

This same year took place the attempted subjugation of England by the Spanish Armada. When the shattered remains of the great fleet came in its desperate flight around the Irish coast, many vessels were wrecked upon the shores of Munster. Lady Denny was alone in Tralee Castle, Sir Edward being absent in Dublin, when in the beginning of September several of the ships of the Armada were driven ashore near Tralee. Acting with a vigour worthy of the gallant race from which she sprang, in a position far more perilous than that of her father in the "Edgcumbe's lofty hall" of Macaulay's ballad, she promptly secured the apprehension of all the Spaniards who had landed. Sir Edward, who was then High Sheriff of the county, no doubt soon arrived upon the scene, for amongst the State papers there is a venomous letter from Sir William Herbert to Walsingham, complaining of Sir Edward, wherein he says:—

"I cannot omitt what in Sir Edward Denny hath passingly displeased me, those rare things in trewth of goods value of the Duke of Medina Sidonia's cast into his hands, as I interpret by God's good providence to the end they might be

[1] Who increased the original estate in later times to about 30,000 acres.

presented to her Majesty, he being Her Highnesses sworne servaunte of her Privy Chamber, sworne counsellor of this province, sworne sheriffe of this countie, he shewed certeyn friendes of his at hys hous of Trally, and declared how he meant to dispose of every part of them . . . One thing there was which cost ten thousand ducketts in Spain he sayd . . . he would not bestow upon your Honour."

Sir Richard Bingham was at this time Governor of the Province of Connaught. An offer was made by him to Sir Edward Denny to resign to him his office, and an agreement was entered into between them, and confirmed before Lord Deputy Fitzwilliam for that purpose. The Lord Deputy was at that time passing through Connaught at the head of an expedition directed against the Spaniards and Irish in Ulster. Very considerable bodies of Spaniards had landed from the Armada at different points along the northern coast, and were harboured by the rebellious tribes, who desired their assistance against the English.

Shortly afterwards, on November 14th, Fitzwilliam wrote from Ballyshannon, in Donegal, two letters, the one to Burghley and the other apparently to Walsingham, giving these ministers particulars of the proposed transfer of the Governorship of Connaught. In the letter to Burghley, he says that he is "not unapt to allow of Sir Edward Denny to that place, both for his many good parts, and being well favoured of her Majesty, and also for that it was Sir R. Byngham's own choice, and the offer moved first from him." In the second letter, Fitzwilliam mentions that Denny was the bearer of it, and says "Bingham having made choice of Sir Edward to succeed him, I cannot dislike thereof . . . of my particular affection to the gentleman. For my parte, so standinge in her Majesty's good liking and your Honour's favour, I doubt not he will discharge the same verie sufficiently. He hath now obtained leave of me to repair to Court . . . to obtain her Majesty's consent." The agreement, for some unknown reason, was never carried out, but these letters are of interest, and the circumstance of Sir Edward Denny being accounted a fitting substitute for a man of such distinction as Bingham.

In December, Denny had returned from Court, and was serving in the North of Ireland, where the force led by the Lord Lieutenant into Ulster, as mentioned above, was engaged against the rebellious Irish and their Spanish allies. The following Summer he was again in Kerry, for on July 25th, 1582, he writes to Walsingham from Dennyvale, complaining of his old enemy, Sir William Herbert. "Sir William Herbert," he says, "hath used matters in Kerry for his glory's sake . . . A Welsh humour and a fat

conceit hath fed him foolishly. He hath scornfully used Lady Denny in my absence." Shortly afterwards, Sir Edward and Lady Denny, with their young children, returned to England in the ship of that famous sea rover, George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, who had put into Dingle for water and provisions on his perilous voyage home from the Azores.[1] On 6th of April, 1590, the Council granted a request of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, that Sir Edward Denny's "charge" in Ireland might be filled by a deputy, because he would often have occasion to be absent, "by reason of his place of attendance here, near about her Majesty."

A year later Sir Edward was employed, by the Queen's own special appointment, upon naval service, as commander of a relief of ships sent to Admiral Lord Thomas Howard. Apparently,

> "Alike to him the sea, the shore,
> The blade, the bridle, and the oar."

His flagship, the "Nonpareil," entered into sea wages and victuals on April 1st, 1591. Sir Edward's instructions to the captains of his fleet were that

> "My Lord had determined to remain 60 leagues west of Fayal, spreading his Squodron North and South between 37°—30′ and 38°—30′ North. But if we do not there find him we are to repair to the Island of Flores and Corvo, where a pinnace will purposely wait our coming to the last day of August, with the intent after that day to repair to the coast of Spain about the hight of the rock [of Lisbon or Gibraltar] some 20 or 30 leagues off the shore."

In August, 1591, Lord Thomas Howard was at Flores in the Azores, when took place the famous fight of the "Revenge," under Sir Richard Grenville, against a fleet of fifty-three Spaniards.

In 1592 Sir Edward was forgiven an immense sum which he owed to the Exchequer for "rentes and duties due to her Majesty within his signorie" of Dennyvale. These rents, which he was required by his letters patent to collect, were some of them proved to be "impositions wrongfully enacted of the tenants by the Earl of Desmond," some had been raised by him by warlike incursions into the territory of the Lord of Lixnaw, and others consisted of "composicion beeves and other rents and duties, which by reason of the povertie of the countrie, for the most part lying waste and unoccupied, he [Denny] could not by any means collecte."

In 1595 it is recorded that the deceased Bishop of London had made, by Her Majesty's appointment, a "gratification" of £500 out of "Starford" to Sir Edward Denny, and on 17th of October of that year an assignment was made to him

[1] Hakluyt.

"for twenty-one years, to begin 5th November, 1614, of the Manor, park, and demesnes of Stortford Manor, with a lease made to the Queen by Richard, late Bishop of London, he paying £60 rent, and discharging Her Majesty of all Covenants, agreements, &c., in the Bishop's demise."

A letter from Lady Denny to Sir Robert Cecil, September, 1597, shows that her husband was then upon the Queen's service, having had a recent audience of Her Majesty.

In 1598 Sir John Stanhope writes to Sir Robert Cecil, on 3rd November, that the Queen "has been all this day reasonably quiet, and has heard at large the discourse of the calamities of Kerry expressed by Sir Edward Denye, where he has lost houses, ground, corn, cattle, and all his stud of horses, and swears revenge, to which the Queen has hearted him with promises of employment." These losses were occasioned by the triumphal incursion of the Earl of Tyrone, who, having defeated the Queen's forces under Bagnall at the disastrous battle of the Blackwater, joined the Irish of Munster in desolating the possessions of the English settlers.

In 1599, upon February 12th, Sir Edward Denny died, at the comparatively early age of about 52 years, of a sickness taken "in his countrie's service." He was buried at Waltham Abbey, as thus recorded in the Waltham Parish Register: "1599 —Burialls. Sir Edward Denny, Knight, the Elder,[1] was buried the xiiij Daye of Februarii, Anno ut supra."

The stately monument erected to his memory in the Abbey Church by his widow yet remains. Upon it are life-sized recumbent effigies of the Knight and his Lady, the former in complete armour, his plumed helmet beside his head. On the pillow, upon which the female figure leans, are inscribed the words "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (Job xiv, 14). On the lower part of the monument are small kneeling figures of the sons and daughters. Rising from a projecting ledge at the top are three shields of arms. The centre shield (which supports a helmet, upon which is a mutilated representation of the Denny crest), bears—quarterly, I & IV, Gules a saltire argent between twelve crosses patée or (Denny). II. Or a fess dancettée gules, in chief three martlets sable. III. Azure, three trout fretted in triangle argent (Troutbeck). The left-hand shield bears Denny impaled with Edgcumbe, and the right-hand Denny. The tomb had originally

[1] To distinguish him from his nephew, Sir Edward Denny, afterwards Earl of Norwich.

much colouring and gilding, now greatly defaced. The following epitaph was formerly attached to one of the pillars :—

"Learn, curious reader, ere thou pass,
What once Sir Edward Denny was,
A courtier in the chamber,
A soldier in the fielde,
Whose tongue could never flatter,
Whose heart could never yealde."

The following is an exact transcription (contractions excepted) of the epitaph which still remains upon a tablet above the figures of the Knight and Lady :—

"An epitaph upon ye death of ye right worthie Sr Edward Denny, Knight; sonn of ye right honorable Sr Anthony Denny, counseller of estate and executor to Kinge Henry ye 8, and of Joane Champarnon his wife, who beinge of Queene Elizabeth's privie Chamber, and one of ye Counsell of Munster in Ireland, was governor of Kerry & Desmond, & Collonell of certeine Irshe forces there, Departed this life about ye 52 yere of his age, ye xiith of Feb. 1599. Here is offred to ye view & consideration of ye discreete reader a spectacle of pietie and of pittie, the pittie kindlie proceeding from a vertuous ladie daughter of Pierce Edgecombe of Mount Edgecombe Esquier, and sumtime Maide of honor to Queene Elizabeth, hath out of meane fortunes but no meane affection produced this monument dedicate to the remembrance of her deere husband. The pittie[1] must inwardly be conceyved & considered in ye person of ye dead carkeys here interred, cut off like a pleasaunte fruite before perfect ripenes; this worthy Knight here represented, religious, wise, just, liberall, right valiant, most active, learnings frinde, prides foe, kindly, lovinge, mutch beloved, was honored wth yt dignitie of Knighthood by due deserte in ye field, in wch bedd of honor hee willingly would have ended his dayes, but it pleased his moste mercifull Redeemer to bringe him to his grave in Christian peace, yet so farre condiscended to his honourable desire yt in his countries service he tooke his deadlie sicknes. If ye times (more happily flourishing under gratious Astræa) had been aunswearable to his Heroicall designes wth out all doubt hee could not but have had (accordinge to ye strange Italian proverbe) his beake greater then his wings. I finally referre inquisitive searchers into mens fame to ye true reporte even of ye most malitious and recomende ye gallant pattern of his life together wth his repentant patience & assured fayth at ye pointe of death to his owne and to all posterytie."

Sir Edward had issue seven sons and three daughters, namely, Arthur Denny, Esq., of Tralee, father of Sir Edward who, on the death without male issue of Sir Edward Denny, Earl of Norwich, in 1637, became head of the Denny family, and from whom the present family[2] is descended; Francis, M.D., died unmarried, aged 63; Henry, of Bishop's Stortford, whose issue became extinct in

[1] The word 'pittie' here repeated is obviously a mistake for 'pietie.'

[2] The most complete and accurate brief account of which is to be found in the new "Lodge's Peerage and Baronetage."

the third generation; Anthony, died in infancy; Anthony, of Bishop's Stortford, died April, 1662, aged 71, buried in Bishop's Stortford Church (where his monument remains), whose male issue became extinct, but who is represented in the female line by the Brome family, formerly of Bishop's Stortford; Thomas, died unmarried; Rev. Charles, M.A., Senior Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, died 29th December, 1635, buried in Bishop's Stortford, where his monument remains; Elizabeth, eldest daughter, married Christopher Erle, Esq., of Topsfield, Essex; Honora, died young, buried in Wormley Church, Herts; Marie, married, 1634, Richard Harlakenden, Esq., of Earls Colne, Essex, High Sheriff of Herts, 1646, and died 29th November, 1678, having had two daughters.

Lady Denny survived her husband forty-eight years, which were passed at Bishop's Stortford. At the time of the Irish rebellion in 1641, she had to afford shelter to the Hon. Ruth, Lady Denny,[1] wife of her grandson, Sir Edward, who had fled with her young children from Ireland. She refers to this in the following passage of her will:—[2]

"Whereas my desire was to be inter'd at Waltham by my deere husband, now in respect it hath pleased God to cast uppon mee by reason of the rebellion in Ireland the care and charge of the Lady Ruth Denny, the relict of my grandchild Sr Edward Denny late deceased, and of seven fatherless children with her, my will is that cost be spared and my body be buried in Stortford Chauncell."

In 1642, during the great Civil War, King Charles I was at Bishop's Stortford, and in recognition of the unwavering loyalty of Lady Denny and all her family, gave her the following charter of protection:—

"CHARLES R.

"Our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby signifie, charge and commande all our Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels and Captains, and all their officers and souldiers of our army whatever, that they shall not do, or suffer to be done any act of force or violence, or offer any interruption or disturbance whatever to the Lady Denny, her Family, goods, or Manor House, being Stortford Manor House or parsonage, in the parish of Stortford, in our county of Hertford. Herein fail you not, as you would incur our heartiest displeasure, and will every one of you answer at your uttermost peril. ———

"Given under our hand and seal at Stortford,
on 19th of December, 1642."

Seal.

[1] Daughter to Sir Thomas Roper, Viscount Baltinglass, and cousin to Sir Philip Sidney.

[2] Dated March 6th, 1647, proved May 11th, 1648.

On April 24th, 1648, Margaret, Lady Denny, probably the sole survivor of that brilliant ring of fair women and brave men which encircled the throne of the last of the Tudors, died at the great age of 88 years, and was laid in the family vault beneath Bishop's Stortford Church. On a slab upon the floor of the chancel above, beneath a coat of arms—Denny impaled with Edgcombe—is the following inscription :—

"Here lyeth interred ye truly
Honored ye Lady Margaret Deñy
Desended of the antient family
of the Edge Combes of Mount
Edge Combe in Cornewall
A Maide of Honour in Ordinary
for five yeares to Queene
Elizabeth of blessed memory
then Married to Sr Edward
Denny K^t. Groome of her Maties
Privie Chamber, who departed
this life Aprill the 24th 1648
aged 88 yeares & in ye 48th
yeare of her widdowhood."

A three-quarter length portrait of Sir Edward Denny, believed to be by Zuccaro, and a smaller one of his Lady, both life size, are in possession of the Rev. H. L. L. Denny, of St. Stephen's, Dublin. Sir Edward is depicted with a bold and cheerful countenance, in which may be traced a strong likeness both to Walsingham and Raleigh, more especially to the latter. His hair, moustache, and pointed beard are of a light, reddish hue, and his eyes blue grey. He wears a black hat, with a broad brim and a very high crown, a green ruff, a brown (perhaps leather) doublet, and upon his shoulders a short black cloak, lined with green. His breeches are green, covered with embroidery. His gloves have long gauntlets, handsomely embroidered and fringed. From a gold embroidered belt hangs a rapier, the hilt and guard of which appear to be of engraved gold. Lady Denny was probably painted after she became a widow. She is dressed in black, with a large white ruff, and a coif upon her head, from which hangs a black veil. There is another portrait of her in possession of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, at Mount Edgcumbe, Plymouth. There are a number of Sir Edward Denny's letters to Burghley and Walsingham amongst the Marquess of Salisbury's MSS. and the State Papers.

The varied life of this Hertfordshire knight, linked with so many famous names and great events, is typical of that of the class

of men for which the Elizabethan age was remarkable. We can see him—now one of the group of polished courtiers, who stand highest in the royal favour; now pursuing the wild Irishry or the Scots of Clannaboy through their woods and mountains, with Carew and Essex; now jousting before the Queen with Sidney and Oxford, and now boarding a Spanish galleon, or setting forth with Raleigh and Gilbert to discover and colonize in the New World; now at Court, making love to Her Highness's Maid of Honour; now upon the wild shore of Munster with Grey and Spencer, repelling the fierce sallies of Italian adventurers; now as the trusted emissary of Elizabeth conveying her messages to Burghley or Walsingham; now sailing forth commander of reinforcements for Admiral Howard; and at last laid beneath a tomb which might have had inscribed upon it the words, memorable as the epitaph of his comrade Fulke Greville—

"Servant of Queen Elizabeth,
Friend of Sir Philip Sidney."

[The foregoing has been compiled for the "Hertfordshire Dictionary of Biography" by the Rev. H. L. L. Denny, B.A., St. Stephen's, Dublin, 1905.]

NORTH DOORWAY, REED CHURCH.

REED CHURCH.

THE first impression of the visitor to the Church of St. Mary, Reed, is, that whatever may have been the original features of interest in the building, they have been most carefully removed. That, however, is only partially correct, for, excluding St. Albans Abbey, no church in the county has a larger amount of Saxon work at present visible. At each corner of the nave is long and short work, a feature of which Professor Baldwin says, that its history cannot be written until the chronology of Saxon churches is better fixed than at present. Taking the cruciform and towered churches as late, and Monkwearmouth and Escomb as early, we note that, while large stone quoins are used at every period, long and short quoins appear to be of later development. Now, in Domesday Book a priest is mentioned here in the time of Edward the Confessor (1042–66); taking these two facts together, there can be but little doubt that the walls of the present nave date back at least to Edward the Confessor's time; also because there are two varieties of long and short work. In the first kind, which is seen here, the faces of both long and short work stones are flush with the face of the wall; in the second kind, of which examples are found at Wittering and Sompting, both the flat and upright stones are cut back to receive the plastering, to which they form a vertical border, the latter kind being obviously a development. If any further evidence is wanted, a careful examination of the north doorway will dispel any doubts as to its pre-conquest character, as the curious formation of the arch inside is quite different from Norman work. A similar construction occurs in a doorway in the north transept at Stow, and in the north doorway at Worth, both of which churches are known to be Saxon. Professor Baldwin Brown, speaking of the former, says: "Had the Saxons learned the technique of arch construction by direct tradition from the Romans as it was learned by continental artificers, they could not have made the curious blunders in the cutting and fixing of voussoirs which we find from time to time, as, for example, in the north transept doorway at Stow." Mr. Cussans, speaking of the outside of this doorway, says "that it is Norman, and similar to that at Little Hormead." Neither of his statements can be accepted, because imposts similar to those in the doorway at Reed are to be seen at Stanton Lacy, Stow, and in a tenth century MS. The very

shallow carving in the capitals is such as could be worked with hammer or pick, without the aid of a chisel. This, as Mr. Rickman remarks, is a prominent feature of Saxon architecture. It is also to be noted that the carving in the east capital differs from that in the west one. The presence of a tympanum (especially a plain one) is no certain indication of Norman work, for in the very puzzling doorway at Bradenham, there is an ornamented tympanum, and, as far as is at present known, no amateur, or expert, has ever ventured on a definite opinion as to its exact period. The bottoms of the pillars slightly increase in diameter, a feature which occurs in the chancel arch at Wittering. There are two leading theories with regard to north doors, the first, that they were opened before the exorcism in the office of baptism, and shut immediately after; and the second, that before the time of Cromwell (about 1649) men would enter by the north door, and women by the south. At Bramfield and Sacombe, although there is now no north door, the old seating arrangement is still strongly marked; and at Carnac, and at many other places in Brittany, the north door is still used by the men, and the south by the women. Two more points of early origin are the height of the walls, and the opening between the nave and the tower. The stonework of this tower arch is modern, but at Stow the jambs of the western arch of the tower are similar to these. In the north jamb of the Reed arch is a curious shallow and wide recess of the Decorated period; it is difficult to see what purpose it can have served.

The tower is of three stages, finished with a brick battlement; the quoining at the south-west corner resembles that in the same position in the tower at Barnack; the west window is of the Decorated period, the small windows in the upper stage probably preserve their original form, and resemble those at Clapham (Beds) and Brigstock, in shape. In common with all other Saxon towers this one has no stone staircase, it is also unbuttressed. There are three bells, two without inscriptions, and the third is the work of Robert Oldfield. In the west face of the tower is a blocked up doorway; the upper part above the impost has sloping sides; there is a doorway of similar shape at Barton-on-Humber, and in the west face of the tower at Holy Trinity, Colchester, is a Saxon doorway, which is very much like the Reed example. The width of the nave (about 19 feet) is within a few inches of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow; at the north-east corner just behind the pulpit are six of the rood-loft steps. The length of the nave and tower is about 46 feet. The chancel arch is wider than is usually found in a church of this size, and unfortunately

gives no indication of the dimensions of the previous one. The chancel (as is the case in many Saxon examples) has been rebuilt; the only point of interest is the fine, five-light, Decorated, east window; the two circular projections are very slightly marked with human faces, and appear to be of early workmanship. A thorough restoration was undertaken in 1863. Apparently, before that time, the body of the church was lit by three windows only; viz., the east, and one on each side of the nave, for Salmon distinctly says, "these arms are in the south window, argent, on a bend, sable, three swans of the field. In the north window, sable on a chevron, argent, a phœon pointed downward, of the first, between 3 roses of the second"; these arms I have been unable to trace. The window on each side of the chancel may mark the site of an older one, but it is unlikely. Some of the old window tracery is preserved in the garden at Reed Hall. There is a tradition that at the restoration the stained glass here was taken to Barkway, and it has not been returned.

I am indebted to the Rev. J. Frome Wilkinson for a reference to the following note, in Add. MS. 17,458, British Museum, written by the Rev. D. T. Powell on May 14th, 1806:—

"The church small, good, and old windows of sweeps in tracery; east window a fine old one of five pannels, light, and tracery in ye arch. I was told it contain'd painted glass which was removed to . . . . by ye abovesaid Peachy; at west a tower of stone, plain. I did not go in, for there are no mt^s of antiquity."

Certainly in the east window of the south aisle at Barkway, are remains of a Jesse window, which neither Salmon nor Coles mentions, and the latter expressly states that his notes are intended to supplement Salmon. The holy water stoup in the porch belongs to the Decorated period. Mr. Butterfield's opinion was that there should be no human memorials in the chancel of a church; in this building there are no memorials anywhere, a somewhat unusual occurrence.

From the following list of vestments it is obvious that this church followed the use of Sarum, while Buckland, Barkway, and Therfield, followed another use, possibly that of Lincoln:—

A challyce of syluer parcell gylte wayeing viii ownces & a quarter.
A vestyment of grene sylke.
A vestyment of white fustyen.
A vestyment of blacke buckerum.
A cope of red sylke.
A crose of copper and gylte.
iij belles in the steple.
ij hand belles.

These are not sacring bells, which are always mentioned as such; e.g. at Kings Langley, is the item, 2 hand bells and 3 sacring bells. There is a fact which is generally overlooked, viz., that in services before the time of Cromwell, these bells were used much more than is supposed, in processions, within and without the church, and possibly during the marriage service. In Caxton's translation of the Golden Legend, in a description of a Rogation procession, "bells be rung, banners displayed, the cross cometh after, and the people ensueth."

The list of Rectors commences with John Bernard, 5th October, 1361, the patrons being the Prior and Convent of Lewes.

During the reign of Henry VIII, Crumwel, the Vicar General, ordered that each parish should have a register of weddings, christenings, and burials; these registers commenced in the year 1538; the Reed registers date from 1539, and are among the earliest in the county. The bowl of the old font is in the garden of Reed Hall; it is of clunch, octagonal, twenty-six inches wide, thirteen inches deep, the basin is circular, the sides of the bowl are plain, underneath are conventional flowers, and two shields, one bears a St. George's cross, the other is plain; another of these projecting ornaments bears a rod and sponge, two spears, and two scourges. If this were the original design it is peculiar; more probably it is a seven sacrament font, defaced by the fanatic appointed in the time of Cromwell for the defacement of pictures and images in Hertfordshire churches.

H. P. Pollard.

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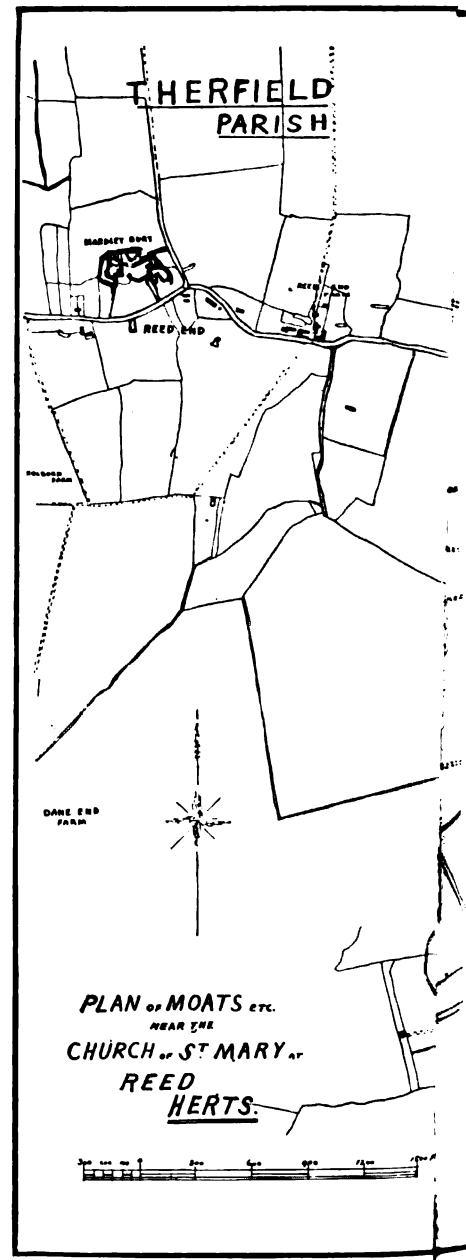

THERFIELD
PARISH
REED END
DANE END
FARM
PLAN OF MOATS ETC.
NEAR THE
CHURCH OF ST MARY AT
REED
HERTS.

MOATS AND MOATED SITES IN THE PARISH OF REED.

In the early and mediæval periods, every building of any importance, whether Homestead, Religious House, Manor House, Grange, or Castle, possessed a moat. It was an excellent protection against surprise by bodies of armed marauders, or a stealthy visit by one or more robbers intent only on plunder; if a fire occurred a ready means of extinguishing was close at hand; and in the case of a religious house, it formed a convenient mode of rearing fish for the sustenance of the inmates, and also helped to drain the site.

Both Saxon and Norman constructed moats to defend their dwellings, as did the earlier inhabitants to protect their stockaded camps and enclosures; and the custom prevailed up to the late Tudor period.

With the commencement of the more peaceable era of the Stuarts, moats were no longer necessary, and in many places were partly filled in; a portion only being converted into a pond. They are now rapidly disappearing, having served their purpose, and survived their usefulness. Probably in another century the 'Moated Grange' will be, with very few exceptions, a thing of the past, and from an antiquarian and picturesque point of view only, need be regretted.

It is not probable that any nation in the low state of civilization in which the Saxons and the Danes were at the earliest period of their history, should have any great regard for the rights of property; they were professedly pirates and brigands, highway robbers and thieves, who lived by taking forcible possession of the lands and goods of others, they were also cheats and swindlers, although they had an infinite number of laws against robbery. Thefts were divided into three classes: the first by seven men in a body, was theft pure and simple; the second a gang of seven and not more than thirty-five; and the third by a small army who were levying war on their own account. The property most coveted was cattle and slaves, stud mares, and beehives, because the first three named were valuable, and were easily carried off, whilst the latter were incapable of identification.

It would also appear from the great frequency of these moated enclosures on the east side of the county, that in the early ages of

our nation much raiding and counter-raiding was experienced, and that the enemy from the adjoining counties of Cambridge and Essex were exceedingly active in their forays upon their neighbour's cattle, the flat county of Cambridge being especially favourable for this purpose. From the repeated occurrence of these protected sites on the east and north-east it is evident that the valleys of the rivers Lea and Stort were tracts to be feared and watched against; and as it is believed that the boundary between the tribes of the Trinobantes and Cattieuchlani was not far from those rivers, (indeed, the rivers themselves would be boundaries at once clearly defined and indisputable), so these two powerful tribes would always be at war with others, and incursions would be frequent. Doubtless on occasions they joined their forces against a more powerful foe, and when away on their expeditions would use these and other enclosures, with any other irregular formations of the ground in the neighbourhood, which are usually as near the highest points that could be found, for their nightly protection, in order that warning might be given of an enemy's approach.

If we examine these moats as to their form, and note their connection with the particular position, and the methods taken to ensure safety, we may come to some approximate conclusion respecting the race that constructed them, also why, and when, the work was done. It is evident that they were not all constructed at one time, or by one people; and so we may say with certainty that not only the ancient inhabitants of the land had a share in their formation, but that also the Romans, Saxons, and Normans, with the later inhabitants, even down to Tudor times, added to, altered, and increased their number, but all this would require much more time, research, and explanation than can be given in one paper.

In the parish of Reed there occurs a very remarkable series of moats; in fact, they are so numerous that the whole district within a mile radius from St. Mary's Church requires close examination, for there are very many more evidences of these defensive earthworks than those that are shown even upon the large scale Ordnance Map of the parish. An endeavour has been made for the purpose of this paper to delineate a few of these on a larger scale (see illustration). A study also of all the local field names should be made, for many of these contain information that might throw much light upon all the subject, and greatly assist us in understanding the reason for the formation of these moats in this district.

By reference to the plan it will be readily seen that there

is a large moat and several detached ponds at Mardleybury. This is possibly the site of an old monastery, and although there are no remains left, yet it is easy to conceive of such an institution being here, with an entirely continuous moat, old yew-trees close to the house on the north-west side, and a small quern of conglomerate lying in the front garden. The house has nothing in it of antiquity, it having been nearly all rebuilt within 100 years. The Manor of Mardleybury pays a certain sum of money annually to the incumbent of Reed.

It may be said that the whole of this district is practically devoid of a good water supply, small ponds taking the place of the large bodies of water found elsewhere; therefore many of the moats are invaluable, if only for cattle, and there are a great number of these small ponds scattered about the fields and within the house enclosures, some of which, in continuous dry weather entirely disappear.

Reed village lies on the east side of the London to Royston road, and is distant about half a mile from the church. That road (almost the whole of its length) is known as the Roman Road, i.e. the Ermine Street. The village is near the summit of a chalk range; from its south end a brook flows into the River Lea and so into the Thames, but from the north end the water goes into the Cam and the Lynn Deeps. The soil is mixed, partly light and partly heavy, the subsoil is chalk and clay, which accounts for the numerous small ponds about the place. It was divided at one period into East and West Reed, the latter part being that nearest to Therfield.

Near North Farm in Reed parish are, what are believed to be, the remains of an original moat, but, as has been said previously, every one of these spots requires strict examination, and unless this is done we may arrive at a wrong conclusion.

At "Goodfellows," at the south-east angle of Reed Green, are two curiously-shaped ponds, and there are certain evidences of a former continuation of them on the west and south sides of the house, forming a moat, but it apparently did not enclose the whole of the present buildings.

At "Queenbury" or "Quinbury" (a few yards only to the south-east of the last-named) is a very large space of ground enclosed on its three sides by a dry and wet moat, which originally formed two enclosures. The whole space is about 400 feet square, now occupied by the house, farm buildings, and garden, a large pond being on the east side, one in the field to the south-east, and one on the south, near Reed Church.

Adjoining Reed Hall (which is on the manor of the church of Reed) is Carr's Pightle, in which there are two almost dry, rectangular enclosures, the one of 1¼ acres and the other of about half an acre, and on the west side of the house is a very large and irregular pond, having at least three arms. There are also in this meadow, and in that adjoining the lane on the west, very many indications that these moats and ponds were all connected in past ages by two long dry fosses, and other depressions which are almost obliterated, and also by hollows on the north side of the house connected with the largest of these rectangular spaces. The plan shows that all these were united by other deep depressions which are on the south side of the churchyard, and the ponds before mentioned, to the moated premises at Queenbury; and with a still further extension towards the east; so as to include the moat and ponds between Queenbury and Fiddler's Green.

From the circumstance of such a large area having in the past been very probably enclosed by ditches and wide portions of water, some authorities are of opinion that the whole was constructed in very early times, before the advent of the Romans into this kingdom; it then, no doubt, formed a place of enormous strength, and one in which cattle and their owners would be perfectly secure from molestation. On the west side of Reed Hall human remains were found some years ago, but we have no particulars to guide us to any determination respecting them; we do not even know the manner of their burial.

The road immediately on the north side of Queenbury is comparatively new, as it was made to take the place of the old one adjoining the north side of the churchyard, within living memory.

Further along the road, at Fiddler's Green, is another four-square dry fosse, with a little pond at one corner, and behind the cottages on the north is another pond; all of which were very probably conjoined in past ages.

Then there is a moat at Gannock Grove, by which a space of about 300 feet by 200 feet is enclosed. Again, in Bush Wood, in Barkway parish, is a quadrangular moat which encloses rather over a quarter of an acre. These two last described may be Roman, although no indications of burials, or of pottery, have been found in them.

Lastly, just within the ¾ mile radius of Reed Church, towards the east, there is the wood called Rokey Wood. It is also called Rookey Wood; and Cussans says: "This manor (i.e. of Barkway, otherwise Rokey) probably derives its name from the family of Rokeley, who held considerable possessions in

Norfolk and Suffolk, yet they were never Lords of this manor." A Sir Thomas Rokeby was Sheriff of Yorkshire, 8 Henry IV; he met Henry Percy, first Earl of Northumberland, on Bramham Moor, near Tadcaster, and a skirmish ensued, in which Earl Percy was slain. The arms of Richard de la Rokele were, Lozengy, argent and gules, a bend azure.

Willingale Doe, a parish 5 miles north-east of Chipping Ongar, Essex, is sometimes called Willingehall D'Eu, or Rokely. It existed in the time of Edward the Confessor, and this seems to confirm what has been before said respecting the reasons for the formation of many of these moated places, viz., for protection from incursions from the neighbouring county of Essex.

In the open field, on the side of a slight hill, and situate about 150 yards north of Rokey Wood, is what is thought to have been an early British camp called Periwinkle Hill. It is a nearly circular enclosure and covers an area of about 1¼ acres; there are the remains of one fosse and part of another, which seem to have divided the whole into three elevations; it lies above the 500 feet Ordnance datum line, and was evidently intended for a fortified place with a moat, this is now quite dry; and it is difficult to understand from what source any water could have been obtained, unless the face of the district hereabouts has very much altered from what it was formerly. Eustace de Boulogn (temp. William I) built a castle in Barkway, and this is by some thought to be the site.

This camp is now hardly to be distinguished, the surface surrounding it having been reduced greatly in the operations of farming. It may be that the name is, or was, derived from the Latin words *Per ad vincula*, 'for or through to chains,' so that it might have been used as a place of incarceration of prisoners. The entrance into it was probably on the south-east, from the occupation road on that side, just outside Rokey Wood, and this might have been an old British trackway used or adapted by the Romans.

Towards the south of Reed parish, and adjoining it, is the parish of Buckland, where, adjoining the churchyard, are remains of extensive moats, of which only the fosses are left, but some parts still contain a quantity of water. Not far to the north of these is 'Bull's Lane,' and at the angle of it with the main road (the Ermine Street) is a deep and wide quadrangular moat with water in it all the year round. It was cleaned out about 1902, and it is said that no Roman remains of any kind were found in that operation, nor have ever been found. Nevertheless, the writer has found there what he certainly thinks to be a piece (though but a fragment) of

Roman pottery. As it joins the Roman Road and is not dominated by higher ground, it was no doubt a Roman camp. There is also a tradition that the Manor house stood upon this site.

Towards the east border of Therfield parish is a place called Dane End and Dane End Farm. It is known that in the year 1016 the Danes ravaged these parts, and about Wyddiall; and two battles were fought in the neighbourhood. Of the first, the only mention we have is in Somner's Saxon Dictionary, quoting from a book of the Abbey of Abingdon:

"Tunc ipse Edmundus rex vice tertia exercitum congregavit et Londinum adiit resta ex Aquilonari Thamesis parte et sic per Cleighangre [i.e. Clay Hill] et cives Londinensis a Cnutone obsessos liberavit."

Cleigh Hill I believe to be Clay Hill in the parish of Watton, near which are still the remains of a camp, with a field, called Dane Field, in the midst of it. As King Edmund was able to go to the relief of London, the Danes must have been worsted, and probably buried some of their commanders under the six hills near Stevenage. This was after the return from the battle of Sheorstan on the borders of Wiltshire, and that, the Saxon chronicle says,

"was after Midsummer, 1016. At the latter end of the year the Danes marched with destruction from Kent through Mercia, and turning into Essex, at Assandun, about 12 miles from Wydiall, was the last, and to the English, fatal battle fought between Edmund and Cnut. This was a year very memorable for ruin and destruction."[1]

In speaking of the Trinobantes and the Devil's Dyke, a correspondent in a daily paper in 1892, wrote, "that the Dyke was thrown up by the Iceni who inhabited parts of Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, and Norfolk, as a fortification against the Trinobantes of Essex, and the south-west side of Cambridgeshire. Thus a line of protection impassable by war chariots and cavalry effectually prevented inroads and raids by the warlike Trinobantes, who had heretofore rendered the lives and property of the Iceni at all times insecure."

Cæsar landed and desired to bring on a general engagement, and therefore entered the territories of Cassivelaunus, who, however, determined not to meet Cæsar in the field, but to distress his foraging parties, and to protract the war; this obliged Cæsar to attack him in his headquarters, which are thus described:

[1] Turner's "History of the Anglo-Saxons," 5th ed. (1828), vol. ii, p. 330.

"Cognoscit non longe ex eo loco oppidum autem Britanni vocant quum sylvas impeditas vallo atque fossa munierunt ex eo loco oppidum Cassibelauni abesse, quo incursionis vitandae causa convenire consueverunt," i.e. "So the Britains call a thick grove surrounded with a ditch and rampart to secure it from the sudden incursions of an enemy."

Cæsar's expedition was made to land on the 26th of August, in the 55th year before Christ, and stopped only about 13 days. His second expedition was very nearly twelve months after, i.e., about 11 days earlier in the next year.

The Romans showed favour to the Trinobantes, and this encouraged five other tribes, viz., the Cenimagni, Segontiaci, Ancalites, Bibroci, and Cassi, to surrender likewise, and the whole stay of the Romans at this time was about 32 days.

At a station called Standing Groves, a mile south of Harlow, there is a camp near the River Stort which is of an oval shape, rising gradually to about 20 feet high; this station was probably one of those which the Romans formed in the time of Claudius (43 A.D.), to defend the Trinobantes of Essex against the Catieuchlani, who inhabited Hertfordshire, and stations can be traced of the same kind up the Essex side of the Stort, for 9 or 10 miles, as this one at Harlow, another at Hallingbury, another at Bishop's Stortford, and a fourth at Stansted Mountfitchet.

Respecting the original owners in the time of William the Conqueror, we find that Reed was divided amongst six great Norman lords.

"The land of Earl Eustace. Robert the son of Rozeline, held of the Earl, four hides and one virgate and a half; the arable is five carucutes, in demesne there are two, and seven villains with two bordars having three carucates, four servants, meadow half a carucate. Alward a man under the protection of Earl Herald held this manor and might sell it."

"The land of Hardwin de Scalers. Hardwin held five hides and one virgate and an half. The arable is six carucates, in demesne three and a half hides and eight acres, and there are two carucates. There are ten villains with a presbyter, and five bordars having four carucates. There are two cottagers and six servants, meadow half a carucate. Siret a man under the protection of Earl Herald held four hides and one and a half virgates of land; and Sinod a man held one hide."

"The land of Eudo the son of Hubert. Eudo held one virgate of land; the arable is two oxgangs; Sinod held this land and might sell it."

"The land of the Bishop of Bayeux. Osbert held one hide; the arable is three carucates; in demesne there is one, and another may be made; six bordars having one carucate. In the time of King Edward the Confessor, Eddeva, a damsel, held this land under the protection of Stigan the Archbishop and might sell it."

"The land of Earl Allan. Hardwin held of the Earl one hide, the arable is three carucates. There is one, and two more may be made; there is one villain.

Leving the presbyter under the protection of Eddeva held this land and might sell it. Alward held of the Earl, one hide; the arable is three carucates; one is therein and two more may be made. Turbine, a man under the protection of Eddeva held this land and might sell it."

An oxgange was 15 acres of land; a carve was eight oxganges, equal to a carucate or hide; a knight's fee was 12 carves of land, equal to £20 per annum; a barony consisted of 13 knights' fees, and the third part of one, equal to 400 marks per year; a normal hide was of 120 acres; a virgate consisted of 30 acres; the carucate is the land of a plough or plough team, the same as the hide of 120 acres.

The Saxon owners were—Eddeva, and Stigan the Archbishop; the Norman — Earl Eustace, Hardwin de Scalers, Eudo son of Hubert, the Bishop of Bayeux, Earl Allen, and Earl Herald.

The holders were—Robert the son of Rozeline, Siret, Sinod, Leving, Alward, Turbine, and Osbert.

It will now be seen from the above remarks that sufficient evidence has been adduced to show that this whole subject is worthy of much more detailed examination and explanation than can be given within the limits of a short paper.

R. T. Andrews.

Norton Church

NORTON:
THE MANOR AND CHURCH.

THE MANOR.

Offa, King of Mercia, appears to have cherished the hope of adding the kingdom of the East Angles to that of Mercia. Etheldritha, Offa's beautiful daughter, became the betrothed of Ethelbert. Offa, seemingly giving consent to the union, had a feast prepared (probably at his palace at Offley, near Hitchin) in honour of the betrothal, and it is stated that during the festival he treacherously murdered his guest, and by way of penance made several grants of land to monasteries, one of these being to St. Albans, of land at Norton. Etheldritha retired to a cell in the Church of Croyland, where she was enabled, more than thirty years after her sad betrothal, to offer sanctuary to a successor of her father, viz. Wicklaf, King of Mercia, when he fled from Egbert, King of Wessex, in the year 827.

In the Bodleian Library, Oxford, is a charter, A.D. 1007, by which Oxhey, or Oxangehaege, was conveyed to St. Albans Monastery. It is in fact a re-conveyance, for the estate had been granted to the Abbey about 790, by Offa, as before mentioned.

Three estates are included in the charter, the first at Norton, near Hitchin; the second at Rodenhangra, close to Norton; perhaps Radwell (the prefix 'Roden' presents some difficulties, but 'hangra,' or 'overhanging ledge,' fitly applies); the third, Oxangehaege, near Watford. The monks surrounded their land with a fence made of wattle and daub, high enough to keep in their oxen, hence Oxangehaege, literally Ox-hedge.

Norton is recorded in Domesday Book under the title of "Terra Ecclesia Sancti Albani." There was a priest here at the time of survey; two mills are mentioned as being within the vill, fourteen villains, five cottagers, and one servant. King Henry I confirmed the grant by the name of Norton, literally North-town.

Symon, who became Abbot of St. Albans, A.D. 1167, granted the vill of Norton, and part of the tithes of Cundale, to Ralph the son of Aldrick, and his heir, in fee-farm; three marks to be paid yearly to the abbot and monks, and the said Ralph to provide

honourable entertainment—in the form of bread, cheese, and ale—for the abbot and monks when on their way north, and also upon their return. Ale was, of course, the usual drink at every meal; its intoxicating power was very small. It is stated that one Laurentius, Vicar of Norton in the thirteenth century, resigned his living expressly in order that the revenue might be used for the improvement of its ale.[1] A tradition still exists at Willian, that a party of monks passed through the village each week in pre-reformation times. It is suggested that the pilgrimage may have been to the shrine of St. Cuthbert. The "Monk's," or to give it its later name, "the old St. Albans highway," passed through Wymondley Magna and Willian, and from thence through Norton.

Abbot Roger took the name of Norton upon his preferment, A.D. 1260. Abbot Whethamsted gave one messuage near the church in this vill, and appropriated it to the use of the church at St. Albans. At the dissolution of the monastery the manor of Norton became the property of the Crown. The next owner was John Boles, of Wallington, who purchased it from the Crown in the reign of Edward VI by the yearly rent of £5 10*s*. 6*d*. From John Boles the manor came into the possession of Richard Cleaver, gent., who died without surviving male issue; it is now vested in the first Garden City Company.

CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

The fabrics of most of our churches show periods of extension or growth, and to the student of ecclesiology the history of the alterations, from the original plan, is very much the history of the parish.

At Norton there is evidence that the west end of the nave has been considerably lengthened, the original ground-plan being even simpler than the present one, probably consisting only of a small chancel and nave, with a wooden bell-turret on its western gable. There remains very little, to suggest that a Saxon church once occupied the site, but the irregular angles of the churchyard, and the ground on the south side of it being considerably raised above the floor-levels of the church, indicate a long period of use.

It is probable that a Saxon village community existed here, as, before the enclosure, Norton contained three large open fields, and a common pasture of about seventy-two acres. Mr. Seebohm, in

[1] "Gesta Abbatum S. Albani" (ed. Riley, vol. *i*, p. 120).

his "English Village Communities," says: "The date of the Saxon Conquest of this district may be definitely determined. It preceded the conquest of Bath, Cirencester, and Gloucester by a very few years. It may be pretty clearly placed at about A.D. 571."

In describing the Manor we found that in A.D. 790, the estate became part and parcel of the land held by the monks of St. Albans, and also at the time of the Domesday Survey there was already a priest at Norton.

The present church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of fishermen, was very likely erected by the monks, and part of the fabric must have been built soon after the Norman Conquest; the early Norman chancel arch being evidence of this. Some portion of the nave walls probably belong to the same period. It will be noticed that a curious inset exists almost on a line with the spring of the window-heads and about eight feet below the wall-plates; this thinning of the wall is very noticeable west of the south door, and seems to be a proof that the height of the walls and the length of the nave have been less than at the present day. These alterations may have been effected at the time the tower was built.

It is believed that in the fourteenth century, the population of the village had increased beyond the seating capacity of the church, and an enlargement had to be made in the churchyard. The masons presumably set out their ground-plan of the tower several feet beyond the west wall of the nave. The building could then be carried on without hindering Divine service, or destroying any part of the earlier fabric, until it was ready to be connected. By that time a screen had been placed across the nave, west of the north and south doors; then the workmen would take down the west wall, and lengthen and join up the side-walls to the tower. As the height of the nave would be out of proportion to its length, the walls were raised, as is shown by the thinner masonry, before mentioned, built upon the more massive walls.

There are not many features of interest in the nave except the fourteenth century seats. The Jacobean pulpit is of plain design, but is interesting on account of its sounding-board. Very few of these are now to be found in our parish churches. The rood stairs still remain open in the north wall; there is a large pew in front of them, which is held by the occupiers of Norton Hall, and projecting from it is a small seat formerly used by the parish clerk; at one end of this is a curious stump, which is considered to be the only remaining portion of the ancient rood screen.

The pew on the south side of the chancel arch is held by the occupier of the manor. Very few memorials to former owners of the manor are to be found within the church. Mr. W. F. Andrews mentions a brass as being within the chancel in 1820, of which there is a drawing in the Pridmore Collection. This shows a small full-length female figure, attired in Marie Stuart cap, large ruff, necklace, cloak hanging from her shoulder, a short jacket cut low, and the hooped skirt of the period; the figure is standing sideways, in the attitude of prayer. (See illustration.)

Very few repairs have been effected since 1814, when the nave and tower were partially restored, the chancel rebuilt, the leaded roof of the nave taken off, and again raised to its earlier pitch. The clunch mouldings of the window mullions, being greatly decayed, were, in two or three of the windows, replaced with rough-cut timber. The west window also has been much repaired in this way.

The tower was repaired in 1814. Under the tower arch is an excellent example of an early nineteenth century barrel-organ, but it is now too much out of repair to be of use. At a small expenditure, however, it could be made serviceable.

The square base of the font has been cut away at the west side. It supports an octagonal stem, which is ornamented on the S.E., S.W., N.W., and N.E. with a quatrefoil, and on the west with two trefoil-headed panels; below them is a quatrefoil. On the east is a single trefoil-headed panel with a quatrefoil below it, and the north and south faces are similar. The bowl is octagonal and quite plain, the sides are 15 inches deep. The basin is circular, lead-lined, with drain, and is 12 inches deep. The total height of the font (which is of the Perpendicular period) is 46 inches. The material is clunch, which has been painted and marbled, this decoration being probably considered a triumph of art at the time of its execution. There is also a portable font.

North's "Church Bells of Hertfordshire" specifies three groups of local bells, one at Clothall, another at Newnham, and the third at Norton. The stamps of these bells bear a family likeness. From the character of the letters upon them, North places them in the period about 1578, and if this date is correct, it implies, that within a short distance of Baldock we have a group of pre-reformation bells. The bells are inscribed—(1) John Briant, Hertford, fecit 1815; (2) Sancte Petre ora Pro Nobis; (3) . H. Fleur-de-lis. B. Crown. IHS. Crown. E.A.O.

The parish registers are in four volumes. Vol. i, contains baptisms, 1571–1759; burials, 1584–1718; marriages, 1583–1750.

Vol. ii, burials, 1678–1761. Vol. iii, baptisms, 1759–1812. Vol. iv, marriages, 1752–1812. Vol. i, has some leaves with parish records written thereon, which are dated March 31st, 1657.

Pridmore (1797) gives a coloured view of the church from the south-east, showing the chancel tiled, the nave with a flat leaded roof, a south porch, and square west tower. The chancel and nave windows are Perpendicular.

VICARS.

1561.	A. Lawrence.	1679.	S. Sparhawke.
1562.	T. Syrleby.	1739.	G. Archer.
1566.	T. Longpeer.	1741.	T. Martin.
1567.	J. Smyth.	1766.	J. Griffiths.
1570.	T. Longley.	1782.	T. Roberts.
1587.	J. Pratt.	1791.	T. Wilkinson.
1633.	J. Francis.	1795.	J. Butterfield.
1635.	J. Fish.	1819.	E. Paske.
	R. Tuthill.	1826.	R. W. Sutton.
	L. Saunders.	1832.	J. B. Watson.
1662.	R. Tuthill.	1842.	G. J. Pierson.

From a certificate, dated 4th October, 1586, we learn that "Thomas Longley, Vicar of Norton, being examined by Mr. Thomas Holden, Vicar of St. Peter's, is found to be ignorant in the Latin tongue, and not able to decline a noun substantive, or to discern the parts of speech. And further, to be unable to answer unto easy questions in the grounds of faith and religion."

Of Thomas Longpeer, 1566, it is stated that "he does not wear the apparell, but saith he is willing and ready to wear them."

John Pratt, Vicar, 1587, was a great friend of Fox the Martyrologist. He is described as "no preacher," and signed a request to Commission to reduce the number of saints' days, probably finding the services too laborious; but he seems to have been rather inconsistent, as on May 19th, 1599, an order of penance was sent to George Clark, of Norton, for appointing his servant to work in removing hay from a stack on a Tuesday in Easter week.

Luke Saunders was also Vicar of Radwell, but gave up Norton in 1662.

In a document entitled "Provision of Men and Armour by the Clergy," 1588–1626, we find that Mr. Pratt, Vicar of Norton, was to provide "one black bill furnished, that is to say, a jack or plete coate with sleeves, and a skull and scottishe cap, an anninge sworde, dagger and girdle, and a man to weare them." In reply, John Pratt certified that "he hath a black bill furnished."

In 1669, it is stated that the Quakers had a conventicle at Norton; "they goe after John Crook, in ye late times a justice of peace in Bedford, now a grate seducer and disturber of the peace."

The present Vicar, the Rev. G. J. Pierson, M.A., has held the living upwards of sixty years, and is the oldest beneficed clergyman in Hertfordshire. During his incumbency, Norton has been in the Diocese of London, Rochester, and St. Albans. Under the great tithes the glebe land amounted to 273 acres, but the area of the present glebe is only about 60 acres. The Vicarage was built in 1852.

It was largely due to Mr. Pierson that means were found to build the village school in 1873; previous to that date there was some attempt made to provide elementary knowledge to a few children under Wright's Charity, a class for this purpose being held in one of the rooms in the village inn.

At the close of the eighteenth century, and for many years afterwards, Norton was far from being a 'garden village,' as its roads were frequently impassable for wheel traffic; indeed, tradition speaks of the baker from Baldock who in coming to Norton used a donkey and panniers, as being the only method by which the village could be reached.

G. Aylott.

WILBURY HILL AND THE ICKNIELD WAY.

In the programme of the August excursion there appeared the following notice: "Mr. Andrews will state all that is known or conjectured with regard to this earthwork" (Wilbury Hill). If this statement had to be strictly carried out, much more time would be required by the writer, in order to refer to all the ancient and modern authorities—as it is, much has been done. A list of at least twenty-six sources of information is appended, besides the authors' remarks, and those of others who are likely to know at least *something* of the subject, and it is hoped that the whole may prove an interesting contribution to county archæology.

(23) "At the time of the invasion of Britain by Julius Cæsar, all this part of the kingdom [Hertfordshire] appears to have been occupied by the Cassi, who not improbably were the same tribe as Ptolemy mentions as the Catieuchlani." These were no doubt greatly civilized, and had their churches, monasteries, and other buildings, with or without a moat surrounding them, and we may state with a great degree of certainty that wherever there was a church, or a monastic building, or a bury (so called) the road or way adjoining it must have been Saxon, or early British, and made before the advent of the Romans, also where there was a Roman camp, earthwork, or tumulus, there must have been an earlier British way, unless those objects happen to be placed close to the known Roman roads.

Now according to the evidence of Richard of Cirencester (7) we find, "That the ancient British roads may be distinguished from those made by the Romans by unequivocal marks.

1. They are not raised or paved; not always straight; but often wind along the tops or sides of the chains of hills which lie in their course.

2. They do not lead to Roman towns, or notice such towns, except when placed on the sites of British fortresses.

3. They are attended by tumuli like those of the Romans; but usually throw out branches (i.e. branch roads), which after running parallel for some miles, are re-united to the original stem."

And so in "Observations on the Roman Station Magiovintum," by Henry Brandreth (4), we find the following:—

"The Ikening Street is considered to have been a British trackway many centuries before the island was traversed by the Roman roads, that it ran from Venta Icenorum, Caister, near Norwich, to Durnovaria, Dorchester, in Dorsetshire, and had many vicinal branches."

Again, we find noted in the Gentleman's Magazine (8): "The Ickniel way, half a mile of this spot (Danes field, Pirton)—crowned with a number of vestiges of Roman fortifications." So from this we may infer that the Romans found this way nearly ready to their hand, and altered it, and used it as one of their principal roads.

Now as to the route of this road (9), Tompkins, in his "Highways and Byways of Hertfordshire," says, "That the famous Icknield way, with its memories of the Iceni and Boadicea, runs between Offley and Pirton. From Dunstable it leads to Ickleford, Baldock, Ashwell station, and Royston. Much of that route lies across high and breezy districts; and the spot in the district most venerated by antiquaries, is probably Hexton."

Again, Pointer (1) notices it thus: "Ickenild-street is vulgarly called Acknil-street, and runs close along the bounds between Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, passing by Royston, thence through Baldock, and so through Dunstable in Bedfordshire; and thence to Tring in Hertfordshire again."

(10) "The Ickfield way passes through or near the parishes of Chesterford, Ickleton, Elmdon, Strethall, and Heydon," and that "Of the numerous writers, mediæval and modern, who have treated of the Icknield way, almost all refer to it as one of a group of four ancient roads mentioned in the laws of Edward the Confessor, as enjoying the high privilege of the King's peace, and as exempt from the jurisdiction of the local courts. It is interesting to observe that Henry of Huntingdon and successive chroniclers, ignore completely any connection of these British roads with the Romans; Elton thinks that it represents a combination of portions of Roman roads; but others think that at least the eastern half of it does not."

Furthermore, Stukeley (11) says: "At Royston the Icening Street crosses the Herman-street—this about Baldock appears but like a field way, and scarce the breadth of a coach — between Baldock and Ickleford it goes through an entrenchment, taking in the top of a hill of good compass but of no elevation; it consists of a vallum only, and such a thing as I take to be properly the remains of a British 'Oppidum'; it is called Willbury Hill, and is said to have been woody not entirely above memory. It goes at the bottom of a continued ridge of hills called the Chilterns, being chalk, the natural as well as civil boundaries between the counties of Hertford and Bedford; being very steep northward."

Chauncy (25) observes that "Odsey borrowed its name from an ancient Grange called Odsey, near one of the famous Roman ways denominated Icknall, from the Icenians, because it extended from Yarmouth in the east part of that kingdom, to the parish of Barley in this county, in the way giving names to several villages, as Icksworth, Icklingham, and Ickleton in the same kingdom. From Barley to Royston it divides Cambridgeshire from this county, and from thence to Odsey severs this hundred from that shire, whence leading across the Pirre or Pirral it gave appellation to the village of Ickleford, and thence continuing by Tring crosses the county of Bucks—but the name of this way, and the country from whence it comes, with the names of several towns built adjacent to it, the marks of the road, and the tradition of the people that live near the same, do confirm me in my opinion, that this is the old Roman way that was heretofore called Icknall."

Again, Henry Brandreth in *Archæologia* (4): "It was at the spot where the present town of Dunstable stands, that this road crossed the Watling-street at nearly a right angle. The Ikening-street enters the county of Bedford on its south-west borders, and continues on the sides of the hills over Leagrave Marsh through Dunstable; then enters Bucks, and it continues on the top or side of the chalk hills, and is known to every inhabitant by the name of the Ickneld or Ikening-street."

Leland, an old historian of 1568 (12), says, "The last and most uncertain street is the Ikenild-street, or Ryknield-street, as others call it, (but I take them to be two distinct streets, as does Mr. Drayton in his Polyolbion)" (24), and goes on in his quaint way and phraseology as follows:—

"But oh unhappie chance, Through time's disastrous lot,
Our other fellow streets lie utterly forgot.
As, Ecning, that sets out from Yarmouth in the east.
By the Iceni, being then generally possest,
Was of that people first, termed Icning in her race.
Upon the Chilterns here, that did my course imbrace.
Into the dropping south, and bearing then outright,
Upon the Solent sea, stepped on the Ile of Wight.
And Ricknield forth that raught, from Cambria's further shore
Where South Wales now shoots forth, St. David's promontore.
And on his midway neer did me in England meet,
Then in his oblique course, the lusty stragling street,
Soon overtook the fosse; and toward the fall of Tine,
Into the German sea, dissolved at his decline."

Salmon shows us also (13), "That some will derive the name of the town of Hitchin from the Ikening way, and that Ickleford may

easily be corrupted from Hicklingford; but if so, we might expect to find foundations of buildings continued to Ickleford, which, the nature of the ground, being moory, will not allow. And farther, a town of a mile's extent at least lying upon a military way, would have made us look for a station there, and expect to find coins; it is true a Faustina has been found at Wilbury, now in the possession of Sir Robert Abdy, but one swallow we say makes no summer. The medal is of coarse silver of a common size, and not scarce. Because it is the only one found hereabouts I will describe it. On one side is the head of Faustina, wife of Aurelius, inscribed, Faustina Augusta; reverse, two little children sitting on a bed, inscribed, Saeculi Felicitas. This medal was struck upon the Empress being brought to bed of twins, Commodus and Antoninus. The first lived to be Emperor, the younger died at four years old, and had the name of Verissimus."

Also we may conjecture that Hitchin was an important station in Belgic Gaul, and probably the centre of Belgic Britain. The Icknield way was British, although coins of Postumus have been found there. It is not metalled at all, except at such parts where the Romans altered it to make it straighter.

Pointer (1) premises, "That the Icknield way is possibly pre-Roman and runs from Buckland in Bucks, by Marsworth to Ivinghoe, and is called the lower Icknield way. . . . . This Icknield way is not cast upon a ridged bank, or laid out by a deep trench, as some others are, because it lies along under the Chiltern hills on a firm ground, having the hills themselves as a sufficient direction."

If we consult the new Victorian history of Hertfordshire (2), we find "That perhaps the southern limit of East Anglia in Raedwallas' time may have been the Icknield-street, for Anglian remains are plentiful, as shown in the extensive discoveries of the Hon. R. C. Neville."

Again, we may also quote Horsley, and Lipsius, as to the origin of the name; the former (3) says that the "Cenimagni were subject to Cassibelaun, and also the Cassi. For 'Cenimagni,' I think should be read 'Iceni Magni,' or rather 'Iceni Regni,' all lying together about the river Thames. Ptolemy says the 'Iceni' are called 'Simeni,' and at the end of Dr. Gale's (3) edition of the 'Itinerary' we have 'Venta Cenorum' for 'Venta Icenorum'—so 'Iceni Magni' might be changed into 'Ceni Magni.'"

Henry Brandreth in *Archæologia* (4) tells us that—

"At the time that the Romans possessed themselves of Britain, Ireland, or at least the eastern shores of it, was inhabited by a people calling themselves

'Gathlin,' whence the origin in the opinion of some writers of the 'Via Gathlina,' or 'Gathlinorum' of the Romans; and the Watling-street of the Saxons; and it is a curious circumstance, remarks Lysons, that an ancient trackway under the very same name tends from the eastern extremity of Scotland to the same country. These 'Gathlini,' he adds, were the remains of the old Celtic inhabitants of England, who had been driven by powerful and successive invaders to the extremity of Wales and the opposite shores of Ireland; and the communication of their country must have been of the utmost importance in those early times as providing a passage for cattle and other articles of trade from the extreme coasts of the west to the great marts for foreign merchants in the eastern parts of Britain. It was from this transit of cattle, I presume, that the Ikening-street derived its name, Yken meaning in the British tongue Oxen. Hence also, Rhedycina, or Rhydykena, from Rhyd, a ford, and Yken, Oxen. This literally translated by our Saxon ancestors would give Oxenford, at which spot the Thames (there called Isis) was most easily fordable for cattle. I may here remark that the word 'Catieuchlani,' through whose country this road ran, seems to have some reference to that of Yck, an ox."

Again, Camden (5) gives a long account of these causeways and the method of their formation, and among other things says, "The second they commonly called Ikenild-street, because it began in the Icenes country. Neere unto these high walles on both sides were tombs and sepulchres, with inscriptions engraved on them in memorial of brave and noble men that the passengers by might be put in mind that as these sometimes were mortal men, so themselves are now." And Vitruvius (6) also gives a long account of how the Romans made their roads, but which it is not necessary to quote here.

Our county historian, Clutterbuck (14), gives the information that "About two miles from the town of Hitchin, upon the Roman military road called Icknield-street, there is a plot of ground approaching in shape to an oblong, called Welbury, or Wilbury Hill, which appears to have been surrounded by a ditch, now nearly effaced by the plough." And Brayley (15) mentions "On Wilbury Hill, nearly three miles west from Baldock, are traces of an ancient camp or fortification, which Salmon supposes to have been an amphitheatre, and mentions a silver coin of Faustina that was found here: the area included about seven acres, and is crossed by the Icknield way; the rampart on the east and north sides is levelled, on the west it yet remains about four or five feet high bounded by a ditch, on the south are some straight banks, but as are in many places made by the plough on declining ground, this side is the most steep."

One of our local antiquaries, Mr. W. Ransom (16), says, "A commanding position on the Icknield way, about 2½ miles north-east of Hitchin, where traces of an ancient camp are

distinctly visible, with a rampart formerly surrounded by a ditch. Many relics have been found here from time to time, including a few coins. There is also a large tumulus near."

"Highways and Byways of Hertfordshire" (9) states, "On the rising ground, north-east from Ickleford, is Wilbury-hill, where antiquaries can trace a Roman camp, by reason of the fosse which encloses the hill, rather than by any vestiges of stockade or fort."

Stukeley saw in the spot the site of an early British town, and says, "I doubt not that long before Macaulay's traveller shall in vain labour to decipher on some mouldering pedestal the name of our proudest chief, someone will have discovered that Wilbury-hill was a temporary settlement of Phœnician traders, who for once in a way came farther inland than was their wont, to barter purple with the native women."

Giraldus (17) observes "that British fortresses are almost always placed on lofty eminences, whilst the Romans as universally selected a gently elevated situation, near some river, and sufficiently open on all sides to prevent any sudden surprise by the enemy. Another mark of Roman is its form, almost invariably either square or oblong with angles rounded; but that of the Britons was very irregular, and adapted to the shape of the hill on which it was formed, and had many and deep ditches to defend it, but Romans made only a slight rampart. Also brick is found in Roman, with pottery and coins." And Pointer (1) gives: "The Romans in fixing their stations always pitched upon grounds that were driest, and that were not overlooked by any neighbouring hills."

The county boundary between Herts, Cambridge, and Beds here runs up the centre of the Icknield way from Ickleford to the junction of the straight road from Walsworth, and then turns north-east up the centre of the road towards Standalone Farm. Human remains have been found there in the camp. At the junction of the roads the height above the sea is 281 feet, and at the top of the camp in the centre of the road it is 297 feet; part of the camp is said to be in the field to the west, and out of the county of Hertford.

"Among the many monuments of Roman magnificence, their highways were the most admirable of all their works. Their wonderful firmness and smoothness is not only occasioned by the size and hardness of the stones and their close connexion, but also by the materials underneath. The foundation is of a sort of rubble or small pieces of rough stone strongly cemented together; above which is another stratum of coarse gravel cemented in like manner, and mixed with little

round stones, and the whole causey thus composed of several stratums was about three feet high, and near 13 feet broad. The construction was not the same in all places; some countries were of so dry a soil that they had no occasion for any pavement at all: as the Ikenild way here in Britain" (1).

In most cases it is unsafe to assign a date to earthworks (2), but Bishop's Stortford Castle is probably Saxon, and Great Berkhampstead the same or earlier, and so, no doubt, this Icknield Way; although neither upon it, nor in the county, have mixed cemetery burials been found, so that light might be thrown on its early history; the only one of such interments discovered, was near Sandridge.

There are other camps in different parts of the country which are similar to this at Wilbury Hill, and are ascribed by antiquaries to our Celtic ancestors. Of these we may name Arbury Banks in Cambs, and Maiden Bower in Beds.

Wilbury Hill is not to be confounded with or mistaken for Wellbury, Old and New, which lie to the west of Hitchin (4). It has been supposed by Dr. Stukeley, for Wilbury Hill "to have been a British town. But whatever has been its origin, it is sufficiently apparent both from its situation upon the Icknield-street, and from the number of Roman coins and remains of arms which have been dug up here from time to time that it was formerly occupied by that people for the purposes of warfare." But Salmon says (11):—"What was the use of this enclosed piece of ground which the Ikening way goes through the middle of, 'tis hard to say. It appears to have been about seven acres, enclosed with a vallum about four or five feet high; the one half of the vallum is now to be seen (1726), and in its pristine state, except what the rains in 1,200 years may be supposed to have washed away; it is on a small rising ground, with a small ascent to it every way, but by no means eminence enough for the security of a camp without greater fortification than there are any traces of. Neither does it appear to me to be a British 'Oppidum,' which was defended always by a fosse, the earth perhaps all thrown inwards. They took a greater compass of ground for that purpose, and a place where groves or hills protected them from cold and winter storms. I should take it to be contrived for some theatrical entertainment, some exercise for the youth or for rural sports such as a great number of spectators might attend. The vallum might be to keep off the crowd from pressing upon the actors."

In a MS. relating to Hertfordshire written about the beginning of the nineteenth century (20) is the following description:—

"This place is situate 2 miles N.E. from Hitchin, and in the several parishes of Hitchin, Ickleford, Holwell, and Norton, and forms a very conspicuous part in history. In the year 1795 a great quantity of bones of oxen was found near this spot in making a new ditch for the enclosure of Norton field. In the year 1802 a large quantity of human bones were found near the piece of ground now planted with furze. On January 18, 1816, a quantity of human bones and three small coins of the Emperor Constantinus were found in the bank opposite the furze. On January 21 in the same year the largest and most distant of three barrows, situate southward of the Icknield-road, in a field belonging to a Mr. J. Moore, of Hitchin, occupied by Mr. T. Hailey, of Highover Farm, was opened, and at the depth of nine feet from the summit and near the centre were discovered the bones and ashes of some person, supposed to be an ancient British or Roman military chief. The bones appeared to have been burnt and deposited in a case of wood, as part thereof was found, also charcoal in the ashes. On the bones was also found a small blade of copper, in length three inches and an half, and in breadth one inch, completely encrusted—many of the bones on which this lay were tinged with green from the moisture of the ground; and two tops or heads of spears."

This tumulus is in the second field just south of Wilbury Hill, in what is known as Knowl-piece, probably Knoll-piece, and is only 150 yards south of the railway and 350 yards east of the road from Walsworth to Wilbury Hill. Walsworth is to the east of the junction of the Cambridge branch with the Great Northern Railway main line, and the hill is 2¼ miles east of Hitchin station. The field in Hitchin parish immediately to the south-west of the hill is called Wilbury Hill field.

In addition to the finds before mentioned, Clutterbuck (14), in a footnote, says: "On March 25, 1816, the barrow was opened a second time, when the fragment of an urn of coarse clay was found; and near this spot, in the same year, a human skeleton was discovered, about a foot beneath the surface. Of late years many warlike implements of more modern date have been turned up by the plough in the adjacent lands, among which may be mentioned two cannon balls of large size, lately (1827) in the possession of Mr. Hardwick, of Ickleford, and a great variety of coins of the Roman emperors." This is also confirmed by Cussans (22) as follows: "Of Roman coins a great variety has been found at different periods; some in fine preservation, and at the intersection of the two roads a small Roman figure of bronze, about three inches in height, was discovered a few years ago." And we have already mentioned that Roman coins of Constantius were found in the parish of Norton in 1793.

We will again quote Salmon (13), who remarks that

"There is here an intersection of the Ikening by another road, which seems a vicinal way to Magiovinium (Sandy in Bedfordshire), by Arlsea, Henlow, Clifton, Southil; or perhaps by the three first of these, and so to Sheford upon

the Watling Street. The other branch of this from Wilbury points towards Stevenage and Hertford. To confirm this, Arlsea in old charters is Alrichsea. This might come from Aldridge, the same as Old Ridge, and is the name of a parish in Staffordshire, in which is Barbeacon, an old camp, the Etocetum of the Romans, as I presume; Aldridge there, and Alrichsea here, may both have been named from the military Agger." This is also known as the White way (1) and "goes through Baldock, Stevenage, Welwyn, Sandridge, to Verulam and Watford, and on from Ad Pontes on the Thames." And *Archæologia* (4) says: "One of its branches probably started from it at Baldock going northward to Biggleswade, Blunham, Great Barford, Pertenhall, Kimbolton, Brington, Thurning, Luddington and Chesterton, and so joined the Ermine-street thereabouts. Whilst southwards it went through Baldock, and thence by Graveley, Stevenage, Welwyn, to St. Albans, on to the Watling Street."

In a long examination of the actual site of the camp and its surroundings, I have come to the conclusion that, in the fir grove, except by a very great stretch of imagination, no one would notice that there exists any bank whatever as shown on the Ordnance Survey plan, for on the west side there is absolutely none, whilst on the east side there is but a very low bank, which would not be of sufficient height to form a rampart or vallum. On the north side the same bank appears about half-way along the side, and then only from the west corner. There is no depression in the surface of the ground inside the grove, but such as indicates the natural fall of the ground from east to west. I do not think there was even any supposed amphitheatre here, or anything approaching to it.

Between the Radwell-road and the grove is an extensive gravel-pit, probably 200 feet long and 150 feet wide, going southwards to a point, or nearly so, and this pit is also continued on the north side of the hedge towards the north, almost to the hedges on the north and west of the next little field.

On the east side of the Radwell-road, nearly opposite to this gravel-pit, is an entrance to the so-called camp; with a bank on the north side, 14 feet to 15 feet high, which has its top quite level with the rest of the field; whilst the bank on the south side is about 20 feet in height, and continues with a very broken and varying top by the side of the road towards the south, and finishes at nearly 15 feet in height at the south-west corner. This bank appears to have a fosse, but the formation here on this side of the road, has only, in my opinion, been made to carry off the rain-water from the road surface, and by reason of the road itself having been lowered to improve its gradient.

The camp lies in the direction north-west to south-east, and is 400 feet long, and 220 feet wide at the entrance, narrowing to only the width of a cart-road. At the east end, the fields on either

side are at the same level, and it is only this occupation road falling lower and lower towards the west that appears to form a deep fosse between them. The difference in the growth of the hedge on the south side at different parts of its length, shows plainly where the old Icknield way formerly ran, and the hedge bank becomes somewhat higher as it approaches to the south hedge of the camp proper, which is a much more recent one than the first named. The small field on the south side of the camp and between it and the old Icknield way, has, in the past, been lowered and levelled in the operations of farming; its bank is about four to five feet high.

Then as to the camp itself, more especially its interior. The whole has, during late years, been greatly lowered to obtain gravel and chalk marl, more especially below the level of the road through it, and the bank on the south side appears to be much too regularly formed for such an ordinary earthwork as this camp is supposed to have been; there is no higher ground anywhere around to dominate it, but the field on the north side is quite level with the top of any rampart, so that it appears impossible that any could have ever existed there.

The Icknield way never went through this camp, but only along the outside, on the south; it is plainly to be seen at the south end of the fir grove, but, as it proceeds eastward, it is entirely absorbed into the field for some three hundred to three hundred and fifty yards, and then only reappears as a narrow cart-road for some distance.

The tumulus before mentioned as being in Knowl field is covered by a grove of timber and underwood, and is about four to five feet high; it is almost a complete circle of 180 feet in diameter. The field is now called Knocking-hole field.

Finally, my decided opinion is, that in spite of all the foregoing evidence, there is nothing now left to show that a Roman camp was ever in existence here. The high bank at the entrance and any banks that are found around it, are but the remains of excavations made by those who were engaged in digging gravel in years past; and so the whole can be judged to have been only a large gravel-pit. As to the finds, those that have been mentioned are such as continually occur in greater or lesser numbers along the courses of all the ancient ways in the country, and in the populous places which our forefathers, and other tribes and nations, more or less frequented.

1. Pointer's Britannia, 1724.
2. New Victorian History of Herts.
3. Horsley's Britannia Romana, 1732.

4. Archæologia, vol. xxvii.
5. Camden's Britannia, 1610.
6. Vitruvius.
7. Richard of Cirencester, ed. 1809.
8. Gomme's Gentleman's Magazine Library, vol. vii.
9. Tompkins's Highways and Byways in Hertfordshire.
10. Cambs Antiquarian Society's Transactions.
11. Stukeley's Itinerarium Curiosum, 1776.
12. Leland's Itinerary, 3rd ed., 1768.
13. Salmon's History of Hertfordshire, 1728.
14. Clutterbuck's History of Hertfordshire, vol. iii, 1819.
15. Brayley's Beauties of England and Wales, vol. vii, 1808.
16. Herts Natural History Society's Transactions, vol. i.
17. Itinerary of Giraldus, 1806.
18. Barlow's General History of Europe, 1791.
19. Handbook of Hitchin.
20. MS. History of Hertfordshire, 1800.
21. Tablet of Memory.
22. Cussans' History of Hertfordshire, 1870.
23. Archæological Survey of Hertfordshire by Sir J. Evans, 1891.
24. Drayton's Polyolbion.
25. Chauncy's Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire, vol. i.
26. Craven's Commercial Directory, 1854.

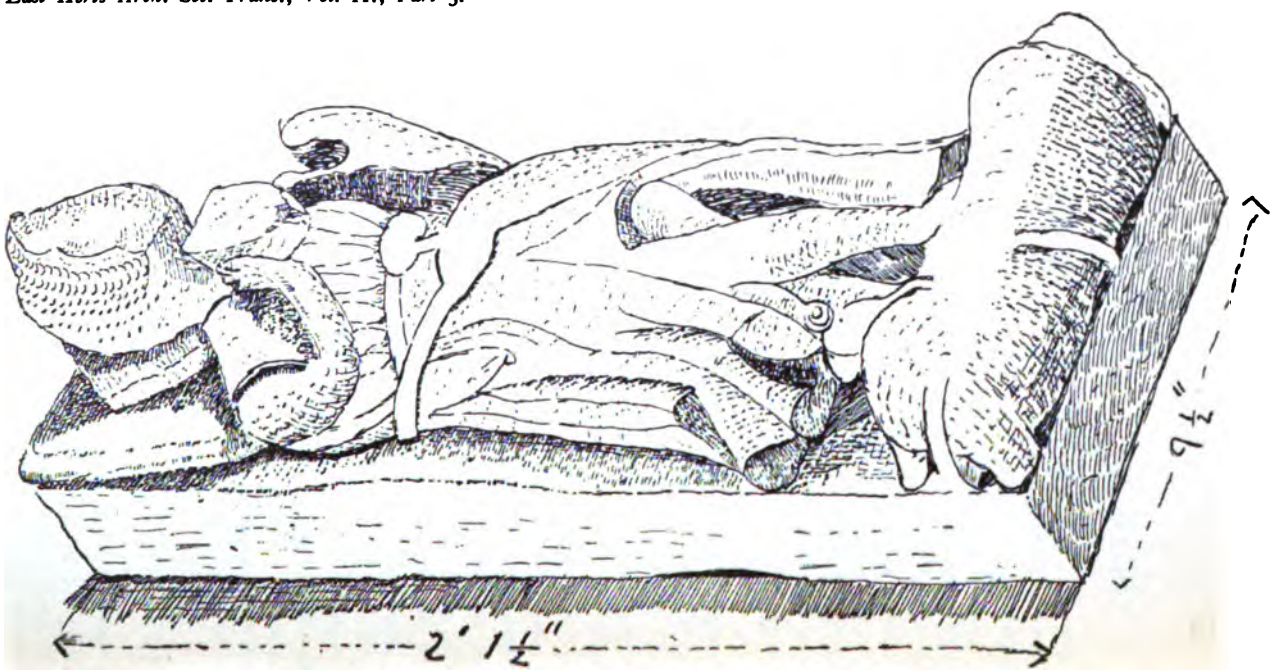
R. T. Andrews.

LETCHWORTH CHURCH.

THIS parish was formerly in the diocese of Lincoln. The church is built chiefly of rubble and flint, and has comparatively recently received a coat of rough cast. The plan is simple, consisting of nave, chancel, and south porch. By interior measurement the nave is about 40 ft. 5 in. long by 16 ft. 5 in. wide, chancel 21 ft. 2 in. long by 13 ft. 8 in. wide, total interior length 56 ft. 10 in. The dedication is unknown. Mr. John Swan, diocesan registrar of Lincoln, informs me that he has no reference to any dedication, and that being so, he takes it for granted that there never was a dedication. From the marked inclination of the chancel to the south-east it is probable that the dedication is to a saint whose festival occurs in the winter months.

The porch entrance has a plain pointed arch, each of the spandrels containing a shield; the western shield bears six lozenges, three and three; the bearings of the eastern shield have disappeared. In the porch wall east of the entrance, a corbel projects slightly, and near it are five circle markings. One of our Society's members who has kindly examined these for me is of opinion that the corbel is an ancient carving of a human face now nearly worn away, and as there is no trace of a corresponding one west of the entrance, the masons may have used adopted material when building the porch. Of the circle markings it is thought they were the work of idle youth, except that of two concentric rings and central dot, which was marked out by the aid of a compass; none of the others will bear this test. In the St. Albans Arch. and Archæol. Soc. Trans., 1899, vol. i, part 3, pp. 190–1, is given an illustration of a similar marking at Flamstead Church, and on a coin of Boadicea at the British Museum. As these circles are found on churches in all parts of the country, it is thought that they possess in common some primary cause, and archæologists are requested to photograph or sketch them, and place them on record. Personally the writer of the paper says he knows of no amusement more fascinating than the hunt for circle, cup, and other markings.

The porch has a blocked window on each side, on the east square-headed, on the west pointed. On each side of the porch is a narrow bench, about six inches wide, of rubble and stone. The remains of the stoup are in the west wall near the nave door, and there is a circular depression about three inches diameter in the



MINIATURE EFFIGY OF A KNIGHT TEMPLAR IN LETCHWORTH CHURCH.
(From a Sketch by G. AYLOTT.)

uppermost of the three base stones. The Norman ironwork of the door hinges and the Early English mouldings of the doorway should be noticed. The base of the font is modern; the bowl is transitional Norman, and of Barnack stone. In the roof over the font is a depressed arch of old woodwork. The west window is of the late Decorated period; the upper tracery has remains of old stained glass.

In the north wall of the nave, opposite the south door, is the blocked up north doorway, no indication of which is visible from the outside. The heads of the two single-light windows have late Decorated tracery; the window nearest the chancel contains the arms of Montfichet in old glass, and has a border of similar design to that in the west window of the church. The two windows on the south side of the nave are of the style known as stonemason's Gothic; these may be studied to even greater advantage from the outside.

On the north side of the chancel arch, facing west, is a cinquefoil-headed niche about three and a half feet high by 18 inches wide. It has the appearance of part of a small reredos to a side altar which may have existed here before the arch was widened. Five benches on the north and four on the south side, Cussans says, are undoubtedly fifteenth century work restored. The nave walls batter slightly. There is one step between the nave and chancel. The mouldings of the chancel arch are flush with the walls both on the east and west sides, and the mouldings of the south capital are broken in the middle; whilst the bases of the pilasters have been repaired with cement. The moulding of the arch near the north springing differs slightly from that near the south springing.

In the north wall of the chancel are two lancet windows; that nearest the chancel arch, and containing some green glass, has on its sill a diminutive effigy, two feet in length, on a slab 26¼ in. long by 12 in. wide, the whole being formed of one piece of clunch stone. About twenty years ago the figure laid on the sill of the west window. The head of the knight rests on a lozenge cushion placed on a larger oblong cushion; the left side of it is damaged, and is protected by a coif-de-mailles with a capuchon. The knight has a sleeveless surcoat with a narrow strap encircling the waist; the surcoat opens above the knees, exhibiting the hauberk, and falls loosely nearly to the feet; the right knee is slightly damaged; the hands, which have finger divisions of mail, rest on the breast, and hold an object, which probably represents a casket to contain a heart, and is mutilated by incision so as to show the similitude of a human face. The left arm bears a long heater

shield damaged at its lower end, and suspended by a guige passing over the right shoulder. A broad belt one inch wide is girded loosely a little above the hips; suspended from the centre of the belt, diagonally towards the left is the anelace, near the haft of which is the loose end of the belt. The legs are protected by chaussés, the right is crossed over the left at the ankle, the knee-plates bear a variety of cross fleuretté, that on the left being well preserved. A single point spur is distinctly shown on the right heel. The feet rest on a quadruped whose head is lost, and the front paws damaged; and it is only by the exuberantly bushy knob of its tail that the animal can be recognised as intended for a lion. There is no inscription, the effigy is not mentioned by the county historians, nor has any photograph, sketch, or description of it been met with.[1] The shape of the headgear and shield, the finger divisions, and knee-plates, indicate the middle of the thirteenth century as its probable date. The second Sir Richard de Montfichet, fourth in descent from William Gernon, otherwise Montfichet, granted the manor of Letchworth to the Knights Templars; he was dead, unmarried, in 1268, and was the last of the Montfichets. Possibly this is his effigy.

These diminutive effigies of knights are very scarce: there are instances at Horsted Keynes, Sussex; Mappowder, Dorset; Cubberley, Gloucestershire; Tenbury, Worcestershire; Bottesford, Leicestershire; and Little Easton, Essex; and one of an ecclesiastic at Dartington, Devon. The heart indicates that it was buried in a different place from the body, which was often the case, particularly if the individual commemorated died abroad.

Below the other lancet in the north wall, within the sanctuary, is a small recess about twelve and a half inches high by nine and three quarter inches wide; if ancient, it may have been a receptacle for a chrism, or perhaps an aumbry; and if so, it has been robbed of much of its interest by its modernised condition.

The east window is square-headed, of three plain pointed lights with plain mullions, suggestive of the latter part of the sixteenth century. In the south wall is a lancet about three feet in height, with its head reaching to about two and a half feet of the roof; it is in a recess, the purpose of which is not readily understood from the interior, but inspection of the exterior wall at once reveals the explanation. Below the window-sill are the outlines of a priests'

[1] Since the foregoing was written Mr. G. Aylott has, despite the difficult position of the effigy, contrived to make the sketch which accompanies this paper.

doorway; the recess inside has therefore been formed by cutting away the sill of the lancet, and, to a narrow extent, cutting into the walling below to form a priests' entrance. Farther west in the chancel, near the chancel arch, is a low-side window containing modern stained glass, the sill being about two and a half feet from the floor; it is about three and a half feet high by eighteen inches wide, which dimensions are slightly larger than usual. Opinion is as yet unsettled as to the purpose of this kind of window. Mr. Gosselin-Grimshawe, who is compiling a list of Hertfordshire examples, is of opinion that out of some seventeen theories which have been advanced, the only reasonable one is, that the sanctus bell was rung at these windows, to let absentees know the exact moment of the consecration of the Sacrament. One of the latest theories is, that a light was placed in these windows to scáre evil spirits from the churchyard. Usually the lower half was not glazed, but had a wooden shutter. Less frequently these windows are found in the north wall of the chancel, as at Albury and Aspenden, sometimes in both north and south walls, as at North Luffenham, in Rutland

The chancel floor slopes westward, there is one step at the sanctuary and another at the chancel arch, the walls batter considerably, and the windows are deeply splayed. Clutterbuck mentions that on the chancel floor there was a stone having at each corner the matrix of a shield, also a stone coffin lid, but these are now not visible.

There is a brass of Thomas Wyrley, who exchanged the vicarage of Leighton Buzzard for this rectory in 1470, it represents him vested in amice and alb, both apparelled, maniple, stole, and chasuble: in his hands he holds a heart inscribed "Credo q^{d}," from the heart issue three scrolls, one inscribed "de terra surrecturus sum," the second "Redemptor meus vivit," and from the third all the inscription has been taken away except the word 'in' and the letter 'C.' Curiously enough, this latter is not mentioned in any of the histories or in any account of the church or brass that I have seen. Assuming that the missing inscription was a continuation of the quotation from Job xix, 25–26, and translating the wording of the Authorised Version "in my flesh I shall see God," I obtained "in carne mea videbo Deum," a sentence beginning with 'in' and 'C,' as on the fragment of the scroll. I have since found that Haines, in his "Monumental Brasses," at the end of Vol. i, gives an illustration of a heart with scrolls on a brass of 1433 at Margate, with the words "Deum Salvatorem Meum," in addition to the words of the above rendering; and as he states that the text from Job was a favourite one, the inscription on the third scroll

was doubtless as on the Margate brass, "in carne mea videbo Deū salvatōre meū." Below the figure is the inscription "Hic jacet dns Thomas Wyrley Rector, Ecclīe de Lecheworth, qui obiit iij die mēs Marcii anº dni MCCCCLXXV." Haines says that hearts held in the hands are usual on pre-Reformation brasses, and are generally intended to indicate a sincere trust in God. Exceptionally early instances indicate heart burial, as at Wiggenhall St. Mary, Norfolk.

In the nave is a brass to a man and his wife; the inscription formerly read "Orate pro animabus Will Overbury et Isabelle uxoris eius," of which the last four words alone remain. The figures are half-length size, have ornamented cuffs, and the wife is placed to the right of the husband: this position is unusual. The brass is fully described by Mr. W. F. Andrews in his "Brasses of Hertfordshire."

The church has a plaster ceiling; the roof timbers appear to be late fourteenth century. The west face of the bell cot is not flush with the west gable of the nave, but is placed a little to the eastward; it supports a vane, and contains one bell inscribed in Lombardic characters, "Ave: Maria: Gracia: Plena" the words having between them the fourteenth century stop of three vertical dots. When North and Stahlschmidt wrote, the number of church bells in the county was 718, only 31 being of pre-Reformation date. The bell at Letchworth has much in common with the third bell at Ardeley; the initial cross and elegant lettering are similar, but although of a well-known character, yet such has not hitherto been noticed in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, or Essex. In 1552 there were two bells at Letchworth; nothing has yet been learnt as to how or when the second one disappeared, but its pit yet exists.

Cussans thinks the church dates from about 1280. There are indications, however, that it may be earlier; the points of two of the Early English lancets in the chancel are so lofty as to suggest that their height has been regulated by the position of the heads of previously existing Norman windows, also there is little risk in assuming that the two north windows of the nave are instances of 'conversion' at a later period; that at one time lancet, they have been shorn of the points, and the heads occupied with late Decorated tracery. From this change, from the style of the widened chancel arch, of the inserted west window, and of the old benches, we learn that the church was thoroughly overhauled, probably between 1370 to 1400, and from the east window, that something was done about 150 years later. The modern restoration is believed to have been effected about forty years since.

There are some interesting facts relating to Letchworth in Urwick's "Nonconformity in Herts" (1884). Urwick found in the Lincoln Registers, that in 1466, the presentation of John Mus was annulled, "because he was a Frenchman by birth," and one Hyne was admitted in his stead. He quotes from Newcourt's "Repertorium" that Henry Hammond, Rector, 1576 to 1597, was during nine years of that period also Rector of Broxbourne, viz., from 1583 to 1592. Concerning Robert Yardley, admitted Rector in 1622, who had been curate at Clothall, he finds from the Add. MSS. in the British Museum, that in 1637 "The Collectors of Ship money report that Mr. Yardley is very poor, and no distress to be had, his goods being taken for the King out of the First-fruit's Office." From the Registers of Letchworth Urwick quotes, that in 1634 the parishioners were ordered "to repaire their pulpit and reading desk," and in 1636 "These are to certifie that within the parish of Letchworth-cum-Burley there hath been neither marriage, christening, nor burial, from the feast of St. Michael 1636, till after the feast of St. Michael 1637. Robert Yardley, rector; John Arnold, guardian." In 1639, 1640, and 1641 there are no entries, and in 1642 one marriage and one baptism. This paucity of entries is quite reversed as regards marriages about one hundred years afterwards, for in the middle of the eighteenth century the church appears to have been a favourite one for weddings, the marriage entries in the register being far more numerous than the population of the parish would justify, many of the persons concerned, coming, as it appears, from a distance.

The advowson went with the manor until about 1100, when it was given by William de Montfichet and Rohesia his wife to the Monastery of St. Albans. At the dissolution it came to the Crown; in 1538, William Ibgrave was presented to the living; in 1622, George Kympton; and in 1676, it was in the possession of the Lytton family, since which time the advowson and manor have been conjoined as they were in the eleventh century. The present Rector is the Rev. R. A. Walls.

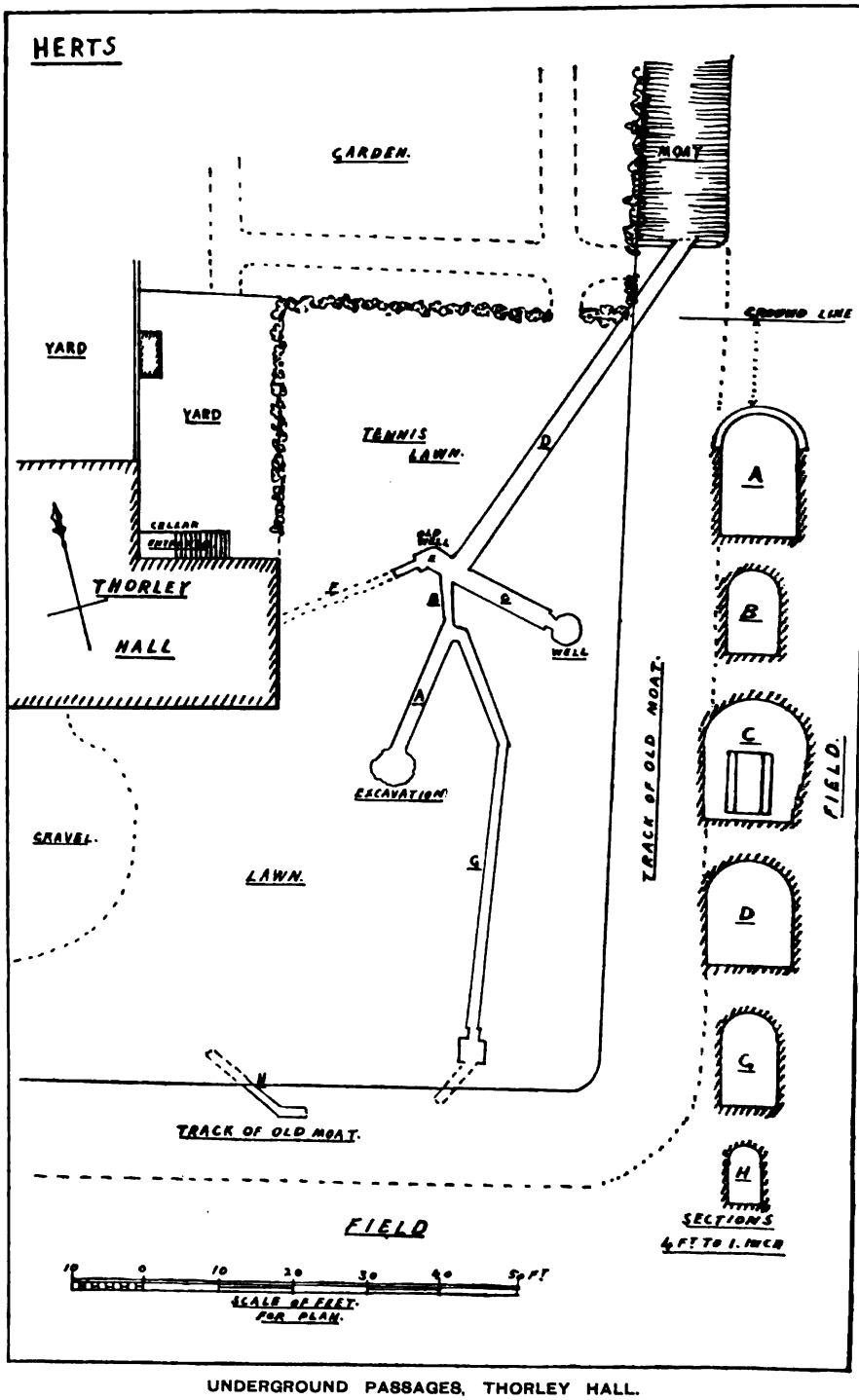
In 1552, Edward VI's Commissioners found the following goods here:—

ltm p^r^mis One chalice of tynne.
,, A Latyne Crosse.
,, One vestment of Rede Saten of Brigs.
,, One other olde vestmente of white and yelowe.
,, elles iij bn the Steple.

Of the present church vessels, a plain chalice, and paten, appear to be of Elizabethan date, the remainder are modern. The Rectory is described as Letchworth-cum-Burley. Burley is a farm near Knebworth, about eight miles distant, and quite detached from Letchworth. Here was a chantry chapel, called Brooke's Free Chapel, the foundation of which was unknown.

In Clutterbuck's history is a list of pensions and alms granted after the dissolution of religious houses in the County of Hertford, to various persons in Mary's reign, one item being—"William Aprice late incumbent of the Free Chapel of Letchworth 19/-." No remains of this chapel are now visible.

H. T. Pollard.



UNDERGROUND PASSAGES, THORLEY HALL.

NOTES ON THE

MANOR OF THORLEY HALL,

AND THE SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGES DISCOVERED THERE.

At the office of Mr. Hare, Solicitor, Great Hadham, are four books, in which are entered "Drafts of the Court Rolls examined." The earliest book is endorsed Vol. iii, and dates from 1773 to 1785.

"This is the beginning of Volume the third of Draughts of the Court Rolls kept of and for the Manor of Thorley Hall, in the County of Hertford, and which being likewise carefully examined therewith, are to be properly called also Examined Copies thereof and will be used by one as such (the Lord of the Manor having been always accustomed to keep the Rolls himself)."

General Court Baron of Mathew Raper, Esq., 4th Oct., 1772.
John Usher, of the Inner Temple, London, General Steward.

John Usher in Court of 1777 is described as of Stortford.

In Court of 1777, April 5:

Proclamation of death of Thos. Adderley, Esq., late of Bp. Stortford.

In Court, April 25, 1777:

States that late Thos. Adderley was admitted tenant in 1776. His ex^or^ appear at the Court.

John Beecroft, of Paternoster Row, London, Bookseller, and Charles Clapton, of Widford Street, gent.,—his will dated 7 Feb., 1774, prov^d^ P.C.C. 26 April, 1774—Mentions his wife Millicent. All for her life. After her death a farm called Haven, part copy, part free, in Stortford and Thorley. Mentions his sister Eliz Hawes—his nephew Francis Hawes, niece Elizabeth Adderley—his sisters, Ann Adderley and Sarah Coates.

Wardall Baynes, of Stortford, Coal Merchant, appeared for Geo. Jackson, Esq.

In 1780. John Raper is Lord. John Usher, Steward.

In 1781. John Peters Grant, Esq., a minor (by William Grant, Doctor of Physic, his father) Lord. John Usher, Steward.

1791. John Usher was Steward.
1797. Court of John Peters Grant held at Coach & Horses, Thorley. David Neale, gent., of Bp. Stortford, Steward.
In 1802. Robert Howard, Steward.

W. B. Gerish.

THE SUBTERRANEAN PASSAGES.

During the latter part of the year 1903, an intimation was conveyed to the Society's Secretary that there was at Thorley Hall a suspected underground passage to Shingle Hall, which the tenant (Mr. W. Jasper) had discovered quite by accident in digging for the purpose of planting a tree. He found that such a way was in existence, and had penetrated it for some considerable distance, but was compelled to desist on account of the air becoming foul; since when the passing of heavy farm waggons and machinery had caused the crown to collapse, as evidenced by depressions in the ground along the course of the passage. Since that time he has courteously allowed the members of the Society to inspect the site, and has opened up more of this interesting subject. On a visit of the Society to Thorley Hall on October 3rd, 1903, it was found that some further progress had been made in the attempt to elucidate the intention of the builders of these passages, and to determine the reason for their existence. The Society, under the supervision of the Hon. Treasurer, excavated the tennis lawn on the east side of the Hall, with the result that several passages were discovered, all built of red brick of varying thickness, arched over with semicircular arches also in brick, and paved with the same. The first piece to be opened was found to be nearly 20 ft. long, 2 ft. 4 in. wide, and 4 ft. 1 in. high to the crown of the arch, and 3 ft. 4 in. under the ground, its direction being nearly north-east and south-west. At the end of this was a short low tunnel, 6 ft. long, 1 ft. 6 in. wide, and 2 ft. high, which turned at an angle directly north, and across which, at the farther end, was an old piece of timber carrying three courses of brickwork, which was evidently part of the foundations of a building; and local tradition assigns, and with every show of probability, that part of the outer wall of the old Hall was supported by this beam on this site.

This latter tunnel opened into a large irregular-shaped space, where, it was believed, a well formerly existed, originally about

30 ft. deep, but which at the time was filled with earth and rubbish. From this, in a direct line with the narrow tunnel, was a brick culvert, 56 ft. in length, 3 ft. high, and 2 ft. 6 in. wide, that finally joined in a north-easterly direction the old moat, which at one time surrounded the Manor-house and Churchyard. On the west side of the irregular space before mentioned was a small opening 1 ft. 1 in. wide, and 2 ft. high, which evidently ran towards some part of the old Manor-house, but is now stopped off by earth for all its length, except about 2 ft. at its entrance. Likewise, from the same irregular cavity, there ran nearly due east a fine culvert, arched as before described, averaging 10 ft. long, 2 ft. 9 in. wide on the floor, and 3 ft. 2 in. wide at the springing of the arch, and 4 ft. in height. This was apparently unpaved, and at the end was a well 4 ft. 3 in. in diameter (overflowing the floor with water 4 in. deep), having a depth at the present of 28 ft., but it was said to be originally 60 ft. This well was domed over in brick, and had a narrow splayed opening into it, forming an entrance, finished above with a wooden lintel. Returning to the entrance, and passing up the first-named passage, an opening was met with on the right or east side, which was the beginning of another passage. This turned off sharply towards the south-east, and ran in a straight line for about 13 ft., then turned south for upwards of 38 ft., at which point there appeared to have been brickwork built to receive either wood or stone, so that it might be stopped off or closed within a square brick pit about 24 in. each way. From this point there were no remains of more brickwork, yet the earth was different, and showed signs of having been removed at some time, but excavations were only made for about a further length of 8 ft. towards the south-west. This long channel was 3 ft. 1 in. high, and 1 ft. 6 in. wide, and from the general character of the bricks, this, and the small 6 ft. opening, and the 56 ft. length to the moat, were certainly the oldest part of the structure; but the first-named passage, and the irregular cavity, and the way to the well, appeared to have been added in much later times, perhaps within the last 100 years, or early in the nineteenth century. The mortar was exceedingly tough and good (as almost all mortar becomes when in a constantly damp situation), with an abundance of lime in its composition, and the bricks were of the common thickness, viz. 2¼ in., whereas in the older portion they were but 2½ in. There was also found a very small brick culvert 30 ft. to the westward of the brick pit; it was only 2 ft. high and 1 ft. 1 in. wide inside, its length being 18 ft. or thereabouts. It was within

1 ft. of the surface, and its direction and fall appeared to be north-west and south-east. With this exception, the fall of all the other passages or culverts was very slight, and was from south to north. Notwithstanding all this excavation, there was found nothing whatever that would give any colour to the tradition of the existence of underground passages from Thorley Hall to Shingle Hall. Salmon, who wrote in 1728, referred to a place called Clements, in Thorley, "which had brick drains for a great way." By this name the present Thorley Hall was then known, and the discoveries now mentioned show that he was perfectly correct in his description, for these passages are only believed to be watercourses formed to carry the water from one part of the site to the other. It is said that the old house of Clements had three wings joined together at one end by a long main building, and that this part where these culverts are found was an old courtyard, and the present building was one of the original wings. It is impossible at this date to account for the existence of two wells in such close proximity; but there is little doubt they were constructed for some definite purpose, and joined to the old culvert as shown by the excavations, and that in very wet weather the overflow from them runs into the old moat to the north. There is also every probability of this old culvert being in early times an open watercourse or ditch, leading from the moat on the south to the moat at the north-east. But when more settled times came, the arms of the moat on the east and south-east were filled up, and probably an extension of the courtyard made, and the watercourses being a nuisance, the culverts became essential, and were built. There is no question but that the moat encircled the whole of this manor-house and churchyard, for on examination of the ground (though it is now irregular as to heights, etc.) it is clearly traceable from the south end of these culverts (the smaller of which ran into, and the larger out of it). The moat was probably 12 to 14 feet or more, broad, and ran along the south fence of the present garden, and by the south side of the barn in the stackyard (where not long since, a thrashing engine sank in at least three feet), up to the new portion of the churchyard (which was added some nine to ten years since, and where it is said the soil is always waterlogged) to the west side of the churchyard, where it turned to the north to the farther side, and then to the east to the large pond (which is only a part of the enlarged moat), and thence across the road (then a ford or a culvert which formed the entrance to the Hall) to the back of the large barn (which was most likely a tithe barn at that time), and so passing

along by the back of this barn to the head of the moat where it is now clearly defined against the road, and which runs down the north side of the garden for 200 feet to its farthest corner, and then turns southward again another 200 feet; the total enclosure being about four acres. There are two ponds just west of the church, but these are evidently modern, merely excavations for gravel; nevertheless, as they hold water it shows that from this part in former times the moat was kept supplied, even as the large pond on the north of the church is at the present day. Seeing that the moat was filled, or stopped off, at the eastern side for some distance, it appears very likely that these culverts were formed to connect its two ends, and prevent the danger of overflow.

The Ordnance level of Thorley Hall is 286 ft. 8 in. above high-water mark at Liverpool, and of Shingle Hall, distant 1 mile 220 yards to the south-west, 281 feet, but between these two places there is a large brook which comes down from Brook Farm, and to which the ground falls. Also direct south from Thorley Hall is Henley Herne spring, at a distance of 960 yards, where the level is but 220 feet; the figures southward being 286 ft. 8 in., 278 feet, 274 feet, 258 ft. 7 in., with 233 feet at the boundary of Thorley parish, 224 feet at Sawbridgeworth parish footpath, 223 feet in Long Mead near the footpath, and 220 feet at the brook. Again, at Shingle Hall, which is 281 feet, it is 278 feet at the east side, 275 feet at Trims Green, and falls towards the south, whilst to the north of Thorley Hall the ground is high. As to the moat in Marthams, Mathams, or Madams Wood being connected, it is impossible, as it lies at the 300 feet level, and would be kept supplied by the wood itself and higher ground, and overflow also into the brook. Salmon suggests that Mathams Wood was part of the park which Henry VI granted to Mr. Leventhorpe in 1422–1461 to enclose, and he then goes on to speak of the pond in the wood as follows:—"In the wood is a very large pond, of an oblong figure, regularly made, which if it were not for the height of the bank all round it, would in our age obtain the name of canal."

It is surprising to note the number and size of the ditches in and about the neighbourhood, many of which form small ravines. The one at the north-east corner of the Thorley moat is an instance, and were this filled up for a few yards, the moat would once more fill with water, and perhaps become a nuisance and source of danger. It will therefore be understood that the tradition of an underground passage from Thorley Hall to Shingle Hall could have no foundation in fact; there is nothing at the first-named place to warrant any such, or if there were, it would pass

down a declivity parallel from 286 to 220 feet, and somewhat underground, and then uphill again to 281 feet. It is very doubtful whether the builders of that time could make such a passage watertight; the lowest portion for a long distance would be so full of water that nothing could pass along it. A parallel case was cited in my paper on the supposed underground passage from the Rye House Castle to Nether Hall in Essex (E.H.A.S. Trans., Vol. II, p. 44), where such a passage would have to pass several large ditches, and under the River Stort, although the surface would be much nearer level.

On a casual inspection of the outside, the Hall does not show any signs of antiquity, save on the west side, where the timbers and plaster front are visible, the other portions of the house having been subsequently faced with brick. But that there is some probability of the present building being part of the old house is witnessed by the fact that in the room in the roof over the kitchen there are the two ends of a large oak beam, 12 inches square, the centre of which has been cut away, and the ends supported by immense oak braces, well tenoned and pinned together, and on which stand the queen posts, 10½ inches by 10 inches, having ornamental moulded bases 7 inches high, and apparently of Early English work. These posts support other large timbers, to which they are braced with straight braces 7 inches square, and curved braces 7 by 6 inches, to an apparent collar beam in the roof, which no doubt carries a king post, also braced each way to timbers which either support the rafters or to the rafters themselves, as also appears in the main roof of the building, where the rafters are all of solid oak 7 by 5 inches, and as good to-day as when first placed in position perhaps three or four centuries ago, and calculated to last quite as long again.

The cellars do not appear to be extensive, or to exist under the whole area of the house, as the present kitchen floor is a tiled one. They are somewhat damp, and have an opening on the north side which is modern, being only about fifteen to sixteen years old. The difference of the brickwork, inside and out, is also seen in that opening, where it is irregularly bonded, four courses of the new work occupying the same thickness as five of the old. The walls within are partly plain and partly plastered; the differences point to where partitions have been formerly fixed, and shelves and bins in the thickness of the old chimney foundation. There is one width of plaster on the south side of the outermost cellar which may, perhaps, cover an original doorway leading somewhere, but no knowledge of any passage from it is in existence.

The dampness of the site arises from the fact of the subsoil being a chalk marl or marly clay of very stiff character, covered by a thin layer of loam, and it retains water to a very considerable extent. The tennis lawn has been raised some two feet on the east side and lowered slightly towards the west to obtain a fair level. The culverts may be compared with those that occur at Bayley Hall, Hertford, more especially as regards the brickwork, but not as to their use; for while those at Thorley were unquestionably aqueducts or culverts for water, those in Hertford were true secret passages, which conducted from one definite point in the house to an obscure opening in the courtyard, and from the main passage by a branch at nearly a right angle with an ancient groined cellar of the next premises, which were formerly the King's Arms Inn. These are complete in themselves with only the ends blocked, whereas those at Thorley have been broken into and filled up for considerable lengths with earth, and entirely lost (as to their destination) at the south ends. Tradition also tells of two avenues which formerly led from the Hall towards Thorley House and Spelbrook. Of these no traces remain.

One other feature of this district is the very large number of footpaths through the fields. On this farm it is said that there are but two fields left that have none in or about them.

R. T. Andrews.

WILLIAN PARISH AND CHURCH.

DURING the Saxon period this parish appears to have been known as "Wickley," a name very appropriate both at that time as well as at the present day; it denoted a farm village, or village of farms, from 'wic,' a village, and 'ley,' cultivated lands. In Domesday Book, completed in 1086, it is written, Welei, Wilga, Welga, and sometimes Wedelee; this is also the name of some lands in Hitchin, which appear to have belonged to this manor, and both were also called "Terra Regis."

It may have also obtained its name from some large landowner in the village or parish, and who, it may be, founded the church. The Britons were Christians during the Roman period, and the fact that many British bishops had been at the great church councils in Europe during these times, and the word 'Llan,' i.e. 'a church,' being very common in Wales now, tends to show that there must have been churches in many parts of Britain for some time before; and so Willian was possibly the founder of this church in Saxon times; and after that, when the Normans came, the building was improved, as was evidenced by its chancel arch.

The parish extends to Baldock on the north, Great Wymondley on the south, Weston on the east, and Letchworth and Hitchin on the west. It has in its bounds half of the old north road which leads from the top of Jack's Hill nearly into Baldock, and is called in the old maps the Glasgow and Carlisle Road, the highest part of which is in this parish, viz. 430 feet above sea-level. In the village are several historic sites and buildings; a field called "Brayes" is the site of the old manor-house of that name, and shows evident traces of foundations, but how it came by this designation is not known: most likely from some very early owner. Punchardon Hall, an old house and manor, which was one of the six fees into which the parish was divided, as given in Domesday Book, belonged to Robert Gernon, and was held by Robert Pontcardon, from whom descended Ralph Punchardon, who was Lord of the Manor in the time of King Henry II (1154); it consisted of 1½ virgates of land, but in 1272 was alienated to Henry Frowick. It may be that "Brayes" and "Punchardons" were either the same, or were closely adjoining; Chauncy seems to favour this view, but Salmon says nothing to confirm it. "Guy's

Close," through which the village street formerly ran, and a branch from it near the pond, no doubt has some history attached to it, although not now known. The "Sandy Lane," through which a right of way is still claimed, leads to a field called "Town Mead," which lies on the further side of the Baldock road between Pixmore and Letchworth. Other names, shown in the tithe maps, are somewhat significant, and redolent of the times of our forefathers; "Hog's Ground"—"Boar's Dell," perhaps part of the wood which was formerly pannage for 30 hogs; "A Hopground"; "A Limekiln Field"; "Ways Ditch," by which is probably meant a fence which once divided a large field into two parts, and respecting which there are those living who remember the site; and "Duck Dabble Shot," most likely a marshy and moory part. There are some charities here as in most other parishes in the kingdom; an acre and a half of land called "Poor's Close"; "The Ward and Izzard Charity," of which Salmon mentions "that Mr. Ward a late vicar gave two acres of land to be fed or depastured by the cattle of those who receive no collection [? alms]. 'T is called Short Butts."

In speaking of the benefice, Salmon says that "it is a vicarage endowed, its value A.D. 1292 was £13 6*s*. 8*d*. per annum. In the survey of 26th Henry viii, it was valued at £5; in 1650 it was found to be a parsonage presentative, worth £160 per annum; it was ordained and endowed a vicarage on March 3rd, 1400." Its present value is about £500, with residence.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and embattled perpendicular tower (the battlements are said to have been built about 1830, and up to that time also there had been only a short spike) and south porch; some few evidences of old work are still visible, but more have been covered up from want of means for their restoration. In the chancel is a Norman arch, which could not have been built later than 1100, and at the last restoration (about 1870) another was found to be over the entrance into the church where the south porch was added. The present chancel arch was altered from its Norman form at that restoration. The roof of the chancel is a good painted imitation of old oak, which was executed by a Mr. Stevens in the year 1830. Up to the year 1861 the vestry stood against the south wall of the chancel; it was only a lath and plaster erection, and then was taken down and the present vestry built on the north side. West of the priests' door at the south side of the chancel, and under a square window (which may have been a low-side one), and outside, is what Cussans describes as "a low, widely splayed arch,

apparently coeval with the building, which was probably built over the burial place of some lay benefactor to the church"; otherwise a founder's tomb. Before the church was restored in 1870, under the superintendence of Mr. Bates, of Stevenage, the walls outside were covered with a coat of stucco, and the main roof was flat inside, and painted like the chancel, being also covered with lead on the outside; there were found to be swarms of bees between the ceiling and the lead, and as the whole was pronounced unsafe a sloping roof was erected in place of it.

The tower has heavy buttresses in five heights, an angle turret, and curious gargoyles at the angles of the cornice. The west door is much recessed, and has many worn mouldings; there are shields of arms in either spandrel, the one having a Latin cross and nails, and the other a bend in an engrailed bordure, which latter arms are the same as those on the lost brass (see illustration).

The stalls in the chancel are ornamented with symbolic terminals and formerly had several seats for about only three persons abreast, and looked westward; these were all altered to their present form at the restoration. The screen is partly of oak and partly of plaster, and is said to have been brought from Biggleswade church in the Rev. W. W. Pymm's time. A rood screen and staircase was evidently in existence, as traces of it were found at the same time. Respecting the windows, the west one in the tower is Perpendicular, with cinquefoiled arches and arms at the top of it. There is a window of three lights on the south side of the nave near the reading-desk, and another of two lights in the north wall; west of this is a stone window which was inserted in 1864, and near the sill of these last two windows are indications of the north doorway. From Pridmore's drawing of the font then in use (about 1797) we see that it had a baluster stem, and basin-shaped bowl, with semi-circular mouldings; the cover very like the bowl, only inverted, and ending in a kind of handle or knob. The present one is said to be the fourth which the church has possessed. There are now only three bells, two of which bear the inscription, "Christopher Graye made mee 1662"; the other, "J. Eayre, St. Neots, Fecit, 1760." There was a fourth bell, but this was cracked, and was sold in 1886 to help pay for a new organ. It was inscribed, "Newcome made me, A.D. 1616," and was unique from the fact that it was the only specimen of the Leicester foundry (where it was cast) in the county of Herts; it was probably the one upon which the old clock struck the hours; this clock has two faces, to the west and north, and was renewed in 1898, in commemoration of the late Queen Victoria attaining the 60th year of her reign.

In William Church

A brass now fixed on the wall at the north-west corner of the chancel is to the memory of Richard Goldon, Rector from 1416 to 1446, and is mentioned by Chauncy; it was found with Goldon's remains, which were re-interred on the same spot, but much deeper and under the seats now fixed near the vestry door. The slab which contained the brass is fixed in the churchyard.

Of the monuments or their inscriptions it is not necessary to write, but only to note those which are now in existence. They are to the memories of—

John Chapman, for 18 years Rector of Willian, and Anne his wife.
Matthew Thorley, Rector, died in 1634.
Richard May, Rector, instituted in 1634.
Edward Lacon, who married the widow of the Lord of the Manor, Edward Willson, and died in 1625.
Thomas Ward, Vicar, died in 1725.
William Wollaston Pym, died 1852.

Over the communion table is a plaster tablet on which is a good copy of Leonardo da Vinci's famous picture of the Last Supper, only it is darkly bronzed over. Among the several arms about the church are those above mentioned as being at the west door; those of William Way on his monument; and the shields in the east window, the first to the families of Chester and Berry, the second to Cheney and Shottesbroke, and the third to Engayne and Broughton, and those of Thomas Wilson on his monument.

The present organ was built by Walker, the famous organ builder. The registers are in fair condition, and well kept; they are continuous from the year 1683, and in the vestry is preserved an old Bible which was printed at Oxford in 1717, and is very beautifully illustrated by an unknown French artist.

Of the Vicars, it suffices to say that they are known from 1245, having been regularly presented to the living by the Peyvre family, the Prior and Convents of Dartford and Langley, and the King, and then since 1607 by several private patrons. There are but few churches in the county where the King's Arms are still in evidence in the interior of the structure; here they hang on high just above the tower arch.

There is one other pleasing object to be seen in the tower, and that is a small canopy in the angle of the wall and ceiling in the north-west corner; why it is so placed is unknown; it may form a corbel to the stonework above it, but can scarcely be the remains of four of such brackets, one at each angle, from which a groined ceiling might have formerly sprang; and there is no evidence

of there having been any such ceiling, or it would probably have lasted to the present day; for the tower is said to have been built apart from the west wall of the nave as late as between 1430 and 1460, and the north and south wall of the nave were extended to the buttresses of it before the old west wall was removed.

L. W. Denman.

ANNUAL REPORT,

1904.

Membership of the Society.—The Council, in presenting to the members the sixth Annual Report and Balance Sheet, are still able to report an increase in the membership, the total at the end of the year being 169, as against 161 at the close of 1903. During the year three members have resigned from various causes, two—Messrs. G. W. Sworder and G. E. Paulin—have passed away, while thirteen new members have been elected.

The Council.—In accordance with Rule 7 the following five members of the Council, Mr. R. T. Andrews, Rev. J. J. Baker, Mr. J. Barton Caldecott, Rev. W. D. Fenning, and Mr. Herbert G. Fordham, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election. The Annual Meeting will be asked to re-elect these gentlemen, and also to re-elect the Treasurer and Secretary.

Alterations to List of Officers.—The Council regret to announce the resignation of the Hon. Editor, and have tendered him, on behalf of the Society, a vote of thanks for his past services. They have decided to allow the post to remain vacant for a time; in the meantime a small committee will supervise the production of the Society's publications.

In order to lighten the duties of the Hon. Secretary, the Council have decided to appoint an Assistant Hon. Secretary, and their choice has fallen upon Mr. H. P. Pollard, of Bengeo, Hertford, a zealous worker in the field of local archæology, and well known as a keen ecclesiologist.

They have also decided to alter the title of Local Hon. Secretaries to District Correspondents, and an endeavour will be made during the present year to appoint gentlemen to these posts in the towns and villages in the Society's district.

The members will be asked to sanction these alterations to Rule 6 at the Annual Meeting.

The Balance Sheet.—During the past year, with a view to clearing off the Society's deficit, which in 1903 amounted to £57 12*s.* 11*d.*, Mr. Howard L. Warner personally approached the President, Vice-Presidents, and a few other friends of the Society, and as a result a sum of £30 was handed to the Treasurer. The grateful thanks of the Society are due to the donors and to Mr. Warner for his successful effort to place the Society on a sound financial basis.

The Balance Sheet shows a small amount carried forward, and this, together with the 1905 subscriptions, should prove sufficient to cover

the cost of producing Parts 2 and 3, Vol. II, of the "Transactions," as well as providing for the current expenses.

The Council desire to point out that the stock of "Transactions" is valued at the price charged to members at about £120. They would urge members who do not already possess complete sets to acquire the earlier issues without delay, as when the stock of any one Part is diminished they will probably find it necessary (as in the case of other Societies) to raise the price.

Annual Meeting and Excursions.—During the year the Society has held its sixth Annual Meeting and three Summer Excursions. The former was held at the Church Room, Sawbridgeworth, and was very well attended. In the absence of the President, the chair was taken by the Rev. H. A. Lipscomb, who gave the opening address. Mrs. J. E. Morris read a paper upon "Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth, and its Owners," the Chairman read a brief "Memoir of Dr. Charles Wade, the Sawbridgeworth Antiquary," and the Hon. Secretary contributed a paper upon "The Mayers and their Song, or some account of the First of May and its observances in Hertfordshire." The Hon. Secretary exhibited by means of the lantern (kindly lent by Mr. Hugh T. Mann) views of all the places visited by the Society during the previous year, and briefly described them. The Society's acknowledgments are due to the Local Committee, to whose efforts the success of the meeting was due. A representative collection of local antiquities and curios was on exhibition, and thanks are due to the Revs. J. J. Baker, H. A. Lipscomb, and A. Williams, Dr. Robinson, Mrs. Glencross, Messrs. Bentley, H. T. Burton, Bryant, Bell, Gilbert, Glynn, Kirkby, and others for the loan of these. Especial thanks should be given to the ladies of Sawbridgeworth, who very kindly provided the refreshments partaken of during the interval.

Excursions were held in June, July, and August, and visits were paid to Patmore Hall, Hadham Hall, and Letchworth Hall, the site of the monastery at Buckland, earthworks at Buckland and Reed, the camp at Wilbury Hill, the rectory at Therfield, and the churches of Albury, Buckland, Little Hadham, Letchworth, Norton, Reed, Therfield, and Willian.

The Council tender their thanks to the clergy of the churches specified for their courtesy and kindness in permitting the members to inspect their churches, registers, plate, etc. The Society's thanks are also due to Mr. and Mrs. Minet for their very acceptable hospitality on the occasion of the visit to Hadham Hall, and to the owners and occupiers of the other places visited. The pleasure of the excursions was enhanced by the papers read by members and friends, the majority of which will appear in due course in the "Transactions."

North Door of Little Hormead Church.—The Council are glad to be able to report that during the past year, in response to an appeal to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Romer, the extremely interesting north door of Little Hormead Church has received much needed attention.

The Rector, acting on the Hon. Secretary's suggestions, has applied three coats of hot linseed oil to the door and refixed the whole of the ironwork.

The thanks of the Society and archæologists generally are due to Sir Robert Romer and the Rector for having taken steps to preserve this valuable ecclesiological feature.

Hertfordshire Deeds.—The Society is indebted to Mr. H. U. Bellamy, of Wood Green, for permission to examine and list a number of highly interesting local deeds and documents, ranging from the Fifteenth to the Eighteenth centuries. These relate chiefly to lands, messuages, etc., in the Harpenden-Wheathampstead district.

It is hoped that others possessing documents of this nature will kindly allow the Society access thereto, in order that such material for the future historian may be permanently recorded.

Lost Hertfordshire Brasses.—Reference was made to these in the Report for 1903, and the Council have pleasure in stating that those belonging to Braughing Church have been returned and duly affixed to the wall of the south aisle. Negotiations between the Vicar of Sawbridgeworth and the Committee of the Saffron Walden Museum are, they understand, in progress, and it is hoped that the result will be equally successful. The Council are unable to learn that any application has been made for the return of the Eastwick brass.

"Memorial Brasses in Hertfordshire Churches."—Mr. W. Frampton Andrews, a Vice-President of the Society and the compiler of this most useful work, has presented the Society with the remaining stock of copies, consisting of 14 of the Large Paper (quarto, 10*s.*) and 40 of the Small Paper (octavo, 5*s.*) issues.

These are a valuable asset, as the volume is not likely to be reprinted, and the sale of copies should in time form a considerable addition to the Society's funds. Very hearty thanks are due to Mr. Andrews for his valuable donation.

Hertfordshire Parish Registers.—The registers of Great Berkhamstead have all been transcribed down to the year 1812 by the Rev. H. C. Curtis and Mr. W. P. W. Phillimore. They are of exceptional interest, for they go back to the earliest period, 1538; and, moreover, the ancient paper book is still in existence, and the numerous discrepancies between it and the parchment copy have been noted by Mr. Phillimore. There is sufficient 'copy' in hand to justify starting the first volume; but the amount of support given so far to the proposal is disappointingly small. At least twenty-five more subscribers are needed before it would be safe to send the MSS. to the printer. Two volumes a year could be produced in return for an annual subscription of one guinea. Having regard to what has been done in other counties, we might fairly expect better progress in Herts, owing to the large number of families of good position settled in the county, consequent on its proximity to the Metropolis.

Publications.—The following "Transactions" have been issued :—Prices to members : Vol. I, 1899–1901 : Part I, 2*s.* 6*d.* ; II, 3*s.* 6*d.* ; III, 5*s.* Index to Vol. I, 1*s.* Cases for binding, 1*s.* 6*d.* Completed volume bound, 15*s.* Vol. II, 1902–4 : Parts I and II, 3*s.* 6*d.* each.

The following local publications are also offered to members at the prices affixed, but as in some cases but few copies remain, early application is desirable :—

Hall's "Place-Names of Hertfordshire." Interleaved. 3*s.*

"Norden's Description of Hertfordshire, 1598." With life, portrait, and bibliography of Norden. Map, title, and arms in facsimile. Small paper, 7*s.* 6*d.* ; large paper, 15*s.*

"Memorial Brasses in Hertfordshire Churches." Small paper, 5*s.* ; large paper, 10*s.*

"A Hertfordshire St. George, or the Story of Piers Shonks and the Pelham Dragon." 1*s.*

"The Eleanor Cross at Waltham," 1791. Size 18¾ in. by 11½ in. A two-page quarto pamphlet describing the Cross in detail is supplied with this. 5*s.*

"The Place-Names of Hertfordshire." By Professor Skeat. 3*s.* 6*d.*, or interleaved 4*s.* 6*d.*

"A Hertfordshire Robin Hood, or the story of Jack o' Legs, the Giant of Weston." 1*s.*

"A Catalogue of Hertfordshire Maps," in three parts. Parts I and II 1*s.* 6*d.* each.

The Place-Names of Hertfordshire, by Professor Skeat.—The series of articles upon the subject have been revised and issued in volume form during the past year. The Council regret to state that the Hon. Secretary, who made himself financially responsible for the production of this very useful work, has, owing to the small number subscribed, incurred considerable loss thereby. Only a limited number were printed, viz. 300 copies, but only about 80 of these were taken up. There is certainly very little encouragement to publish works of local interest.

Index to Vol. I, Transactions, and Extra Print.—The Society's acknowledgments for the labour of compiling this are due to Mr. R. T. Andrews. It has been issued to all 1903 members free of charge, the price to others being 1*s.*

Attention is called to the fact that the print entitled "Finial of Eleanor Cross at Waltham," to face p. 339 of Vol. I "Transactions," may be obtained by members free of charge on application to the Hon. Secretary.

Dictionary of Hertfordshire Biography.—A commencement has been made with this somewhat difficult undertaking. There is considerable difference of opinion as to who should or should not be included in this work. The committee who have it in hand are anxious to meet with additional contributors, especially two or three who would undertake to copy the references to Hertfordshire persons in the Dictionary of National Biography and its authorities, as well as independent sources.

Index to Hertfordshire Topography.—Steady progress is being made with this very laborious task, and it is hoped that a commencement under Place-Names A and B will be printed during the coming year. The Council propose to issue it by subscription at 5*s.* per annum for two parts, the whole to be completed in about four years.

It is hoped that many of the members and friends will take copies, as at least two hundred subscribers are necessary to defray the cost of printing. Not more than two hundred and fifty copies will be printed and the price to non-subscribers will be 5*s.* per part.

Photographs and Prints. — The Society is indebted to Mr. A. Whitford Anderson and Mr. E. E. Squires for the loan of negatives for the purpose of preparing slides for use at the annual meeting. The Society's collection of prints, numbering about 2,000, is kept at the Museum, Fore Street, Hertford, and may be consulted by members at any reasonable time.

Archæological Notes and Queries.—The column in the *Hertfordshire Mercury*, which appears the first Saturday in each month, is now in the sixth year of its existence. During the coming year it is hoped that a series of articles entitled "Hertfordshire from the State Papers" will appear therein. Arrangements have been made with the Publishers whereby those interested may obtain the twelve monthly issues which contain this column post free for 2*s.*

Archæological Union.—Owing to the unavoidable delay in the issue of the 1903 "Transactions," and the consequent omission of the Society's papers in the Index to Archæological Papers for 1903, the Council have not thought it desirable to incur the expense of purchasing copies for each member.

Excursions, 1905.—During the year now entered upon, the Society hopes to pay visits to the following places :—

Nineteenth Excursion. Corneybury, Sandon (Church, Bury, and Hyde Hall), and Kelshall Church.

Twentieth Excursion. Meesden (Church and Hall), Brent Pelham (Church and Hall), "Shonk's Barn," and Beeches.

Twenty-first Excursion. Great Wymondley (Church, Castle, Manor House, and Delamere House) and Little Wymondley (Church, Priory, and Bury).

The Annual Meeting will be held at Hitchin in April.

The Council would again urge upon members the desirability of increasing the Society's membership, as with greater financial support more historical material relating to the County might be published.

BALANCE SHEET, 1904.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, December, 1903	5	14	4
Members' Subscriptions for 1903	1	11	6
,, ,, (154) for 1904	80	17	0
,, ,, for 1905	1	11	6
Sale of "Transactions," less Postage	1	7	9
Donations per H. Warner, Esq.	30	0	0
	£121	2	1

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Lantern Slides and carriage	1	16	5
Library and Insurance	1	18	0
Expenses of Annual Meeting	2	5	2
Postage and carriage of parcels	6	0	3
Exploration (Anstey)		19	0
Printing and Stationery	10	18	6
"Transactions," Vol. I, Pt. 1 ... ... £64 13 3			
,, Vol. II, Pt. 2 ... ... 19 6 3			
	83	19	6
Cost of Excursions, printing, etc.	3	6	3
Balance in hand	9	19	0
	£121	2	1

Compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct,

J. R. COCKS, *Hon. Auditor.*

LIST OF SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Abel Henry Smith, Esq., M.P., President	2	2	0
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	£30	0	0

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